

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

MINUTES OF SIXTY-FIRST MEETING

December 10, 1976

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OF THE INTERIOR

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ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

MINUTES OF SIXTY-FIRST MEETING

(Subject to approval of the Commission at 62nd meeting)

Board Room
Illinois State Museum
Springfield, Illinois
10:19 a.m. December 10, 1976

61-1) Call to order:

The meeting convened at 10:19 a.m. pursuant to the call of Chairman Birkenholz.

Members present: Dr. Dale E. Birkenholz, Warren DeWalt, Dr. John Ebinger, Dr. James S. Fralish, Gordon Graves, Dr. Stanley E. Harris and Dr. Peter Schramm.

Members absent: Dr. Alan Haney and Frederick Kalivoda.

Others present: Mr. Milton Thompson, Director, Illinois State Museum, Advisor; Dr. George Sprugel, Chief, Illinois Natural History Survey, Advisor; Dr. Robert Evers, Natural History Survey, Consultant; George B. Fell, Executive Secretary, Max Hutchison, Gerald Paulson and Richard Thom, Field Representatives, and Peter C. Reilly III, Staff Assistant, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; John Schwegman, Marlin Bowles, Robert Schanzle and Andy West, Natural Areas Section, Department of Conservation; Charles Tamminga, Associate Director, Lands & Historic Sites, Department of Conservation; Fred Tetreault, Information/Education Section, Department of Conservation; John White and Kathryn Kerr, Natural Areas Inventory; Dr. Alfred Koelling, Illinois State Museum; Dr. Kenneth Robertson, Illinois Natural History Survey; Ann Fisher; Mrs. Gordon Graves; and Judy Groves.

Mr. Thompson attended the morning session only.

61-2) Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Dr. Ebinger, seconded by Dr. Harris, and carried, that the draft agenda be adopted subject to change of sequence by the Chairman.

61-3) Minutes of 60th meeting:

It was moved by Dr. Harris, seconded by Dr. Ebinger, and carried, that the minutes of the 60th meeting, held in Morris, Illinois on October 1 and 2, 1976 be approved.

61-4) Financial report:

Mr. Fell presented the following statement of Commission expenses for the period from September 1, 1976 through November 30, 1976:

Expenses incurred on behalf of the Illinois Nature
Preserves Commission by members and Natural Land Institute

Travel, Commission members \$ 313.63

Contractual services

Personal services	\$11,993.91
Employee benefits	1,799.09
Unemployment compensation liability	27.00
Insurance	36.00
Travel, personnel	1,216.75
Rent, utilities & maintenance	744.00
Rental, office equipment	255.00
Telephone	594.89
Postage	232.68
Office supplies	39.79
Field supplies	17.00
Books, maps, photos	96.58
Duplicating & paper	112.80
Meeting expense	71.57

\$17,237.06

\$17,550.69

Cash disbursements from General Revenue Fund appropriation

Administration, including protection of areas

Travel, Commission members	\$ 313.63
Contract Project 1	10,231.95

Preservation, including acquisition and
dedication

Contract Project 3	4,964.61
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Rare & endangered species

Contract Project 4	933.17
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Management

Contract Project 5	1,025.63
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\$17,468.99

3-month apportionment from appropriation

\$17,775.00

Amount disbursed

17,468.99

Surplus for period 306.01

61-5) General report of INPC staff :

Mr. Fell reported on the following matters:

Staff activities: A summary of staff activities for October and November was distributed.

Status of Commission-approved dedications: Prospect Cemetery Prairie (5 acres), Ford County, and the addition to Beall Woods Nature Preserve (39 acres),

Wabash County were approved by the Governor on October 20, 1976. Colored Sands Bluff (44 acres), Winnebago County, is pending approval of the Director and the Governor.

Death of former Commission member: Dr. Charles E. Olmsted passed away on November 20, 1976 at his home in Boulder, Colorado. Dr. Olmsted served as Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Commission from September 8, 1972 to October 10, 1974.

Kentucky Nature Preserves System: Legislation establishing a Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission, modeled after the Illinois law, was approved on March 29, 1976. Jon Rickert, Elizabethtown, Kentucky was instrumental in securing passage of the bill and is Chairman of the newly appointed Commission. Mr. Fell spoke to the Commission about the Illinois nature preserves system on November 17.

Cook County--Sand Ridge Nature Preserve: Approval has been given to cut brush from the prairie and marsh areas.

Lake County--Volo Bog Nature Preserve: A statement on the Commission's stand opposing the freeway location in the vicinity of Volo Bog was distributed to the news media and interested conservation organizations on October 15.

Lawrence County--Robeson Hill's Nature Preserve addition: Vincennes University has applied for a development grant from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for an interpretive center. A proposal for dedication of additions to the nature preserve has been pending for some time and the Commission staff is negotiating for completion of the dedication.

Stephenson County--Freeport Prairie: A 6-acre prairie on the south side of Freeport was donated to the Jane Addamsland Park Foundation on October 10, 1976 by Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Larson of Loves Park.

Warren County--Massasauga Prairie: The Department of Conservation has requested that The Nature Conservancy negotiate with the owners for acquisition of this area.

Williamson County--Crab Orchard Wilderness: The Omnibus Wilderness Bill signed by President Ford on October 19, 1976 included 4,050 acres in the Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge, Williamson County. This is the first area in Illinois to be included in the National Wilderness System.

61-6) General report of Conservation Department staff:

Mr. Schwegman reported on the following matters:

Nature Preserve Directory: The new edition of the Directory is now available

Land acquisition: Options have been obtained on 14.6 acres at Thorn Creek Woods, Will County, and purchase of a 5-acre tract at Volo Bog, Lake County, is nearing completion.

LaSalle County--Starved Rock Nature Preserve: The Director of Conservation has given the Illini Field Archers notice to vacate by December 31, 1976, the site within the nature preserve that they have occupied as an archery range.

Lawrence County--Chauncey Marsh: On November 9, 1976, 168 acres were burned. This included 108 acres of forest and 60 acres of grass and fields. No permanent damage to the marsh is anticipated.

Third Annual Midwest Natural Areas Workshop: The Workshop, sponsored by the Natural Areas Section and the Commission, was held in the Conservation Training Center, Matthiessen State Park, Oglesby, Illinois, from October 15 through October 17, 1976. Representatives from 10 states attended. Next year's meeting will be in Indiana. Transactions of the meeting are being prepared and will be distributed to interested persons.

61-7) Report of Natural Areas Inventory staff:

Mr. White distributed a new directory of survey personnel. Francis Harty and Donald Kurz are new field representatives. Mr. Harty is replacing Keith Wilson. The survey to find prairie remnants in cemeteries was completed in October. In 3923 sites checked, 27 significant prairie remnants of high natural quality were inventoried and 111 other cemeteries were identified which have prairie vegetation with potential for recovery with management. For the general natural area survey, field work has been completed in 40 counties.

61-8) Next meeting arrangements:

It was agreed to hold the next meeting in Chicago on Friday, February 25, 1977.

61-9) Commission policies and goals:

Dr. Birkenholz reported that he and other members of the Commission had prepared a tentative statement of long term and short term Commission goals; copies of which had been distributed for consideration and comment.

Dr. Fralish proposed that there be a classification system to define the use and management of each nature preserve.

It was moved by Dr. Fralish and seconded by Dr. Harris that the Commission staff, in cooperation with the Natural Areas Section, develop an appropriate classification system for nature preserves.

The advantages and disadvantages of having a new classification system and the relation of such a system to the classification of nature preserve land provided for in the rules for management of nature preserves were discussed.

The motion was withdrawn, and it was agreed that the staff would distribute copies of the classification system of Ohio and other states for discussion at the next meeting.

61-10) Proposal for movie on natural areas:

Ann Fisher discussed the need for a movie on Illinois natural areas and the way in which such a movie should be structured. She expressed her intention to assist with planning and promotion of such a movie. This would be for the

purpose of developing a public awareness of the nature preserves program and of the need for more funds for protection of areas discovered by the Natural Areas Inventory.

The Commission expressed its wholehearted support of the proposed project.

There was discussion of other means by which the Commission could increase public awareness of the nature preserves system. It was decided that slide shows should be available to Commission members and for loan on request.

61-11) Proposal for natural area newsletter:

Mr. Paulson reported that the Natural Land Institute is considering publishing a newsletter on natural area preservation. This would be essentially a continuation of Illinois Wildland, the newsletter the Institute published between 1962 and 1966. It would be directed primarily as a means of communication between the active participants in the natural area movement.

It was moved by Dr. Schramm, seconded by Mr. Graves and carried, that the Commission expresses its support for publication by the Natural Land Institute of a natural area newsletter.

61-12) Rare & endangered species:

Mr. Paulson and Mr. Reilly reviewed the work done to date on producing interim lists of rare and endangered species of vascular plants and vertebrate animals and presented an outline summarizing the status and needs of rare and endangered species preservation in Illinois. There is need for additional funding to carry on the study of the status of species on the interim lists and to undertake other needed activities on rare and endangered species. Illinois has not yet entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Federal Endangered Species Act. A cooperative agreement would make it possible for the Department of Conservation to request Federal matching grants pertaining to rare and endangered species of animals.

Upon motion by Mr. Graves, seconded by Dr. Ebinger, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission recognizes the need for coordinated work on inventory, identification, and protection of the rare and endangered species of the State and urges the Department of Conservation to enter into a cooperative agreement on endangered species with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and to seek adequate funding for an endangered species program.

(Resolution 420)

61-13) Policy on cross-country skiing in nature preserves:

Mr. Tamminga had requested that the Commission consider the matter of cross-country skiing in nature preserves. Mr. Paulson said the Commission had been asked for an opinion on skiing in Ryerson Nature Preserve, and the staff had suggested that it be allowed on a casual basis but not encouraged and that no special facilities be provided for the purpose.

There was discussion of the extent to which cross-country skiing is a sport and the extent to which it is needed as a means of access to nature preserves. It was felt that in Illinois cross-country skiing is dominantly a sport and therefore not in keeping with the purpose of nature preserves, that nature preserves are accessible on foot at almost all times, and that skiers in nature preserves would be difficult to restrict to trails.

Upon motion by Mr. Graves, seconded by Dr. Schramm, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission considers that cross-country skiing is a recreational activity and that as such it is prohibited in nature preserves.

(Resolution 421)

61-14) Legislation:

Mr. Fell reported on needed legislation and progress in drafting bills.

The present wildflower protection law is inadequate and should be replaced with more comprehensive provisions for protection of rare and endangered plant species.

There is need for legislation to foster greater conservation activity at the level of county government. Iowa and various other states have very successful local conservation programs, but in Illinois activity in this area has stagnated except in the 15 counties that have forest preserve or conservation districts.

Mr. Fell said his principal effort has gone into studying the legislative basis of the nature preserves program in a broad sense. He is reviewing related legislation with the objective of drafting a comprehensive revision of the statutes concerning the nature preserves program. A major objective is to devise a stronger basis for a register of natural areas. The bill being drafted is based in part on the Illinois Historic Preservation Act that was just recently enacted. It is derived, also, from the Reserve Areas Bill that was drafted 4 years ago but was not introduced in the legislature. That bill, in turn, was based on provisions of the Illinois Highway Code pertaining to establishment of locations of future highway rights-of-way. Other objectives are revisions of existing legislation relating to the nature preserves system, cemetery nature preserves, and the Commission. These revisions are based in part on the nature preserves bill he had drafted 4 years ago and on the new Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission law.

61-15) Rocky Branch, Clark County:

Mr. Thom reported on the status of negotiations with Eastern Illinois University Foundation for the dedication of Rocky Branch. The Nature Conservancy has acquired an additional 9-acre tract which it will probably convey to the Foundation. Dedication will be delayed until the conveyance is made. The Foundation proposes the following provisos be included in the dedication in place of the proviso included in Resolution 401: "A building and shelter for scientific research purposes may be constructed on an area of Tract III not to exceed one acre, located at the entrance to the public road . . ." and "nothing in this dedication agreement shall

be construed as requiring the Eastern Illinois University Foundation or Eastern Illinois University or their assigns to incur any expenses regarding said property without their consent".

Upon motion by Dr. Ebinger, seconded by Dr. Fralish, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission approves dedication as a nature preserve of real property of approximately 130 acres owned by Eastern Illinois University Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, located in Clark County, Illinois and described in detail under Item 15 of the duplicated agenda of the 61st meeting.

The dedication shall include the following provisos:

"A building and shelter for scientific research purposes may be constructed on an area of Tract III not to exceed one acre, located at the entrance to the public road . . ." and "nothing in this dedication agreement shall be construed as requiring the Eastern Illinois University Foundation or Eastern Illinois University or their assigns to incur any expenses regarding said property without their consent".

The Chairman of the Commission is authorized and directed to sign said dedication.

(Resolution 422)

The meeting recessed at 12:50 p.m. for lunch. The meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

61-16) Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County:

Mr. Bowles presented an inventory map classifying the quality of natural vegetation of the north section of Illinois Beach.

Mr. Tamminga reported on the status of investigations concerning the proposed marina. The Department of Conservation will issue a request for proposals for a study of feasibility of a safe water harbor in about 3 weeks. The study will probably be completed in the latter part of 1977. If the first study shows it is possible to build a safe water harbor, the Department will then make a study of the feasibility of a marina and its potential effect on the inland ecology.

61-17) Olin tract, Madison County:

Mr. Thom reported on negotiations for dedication of the Olin tract. In 1969, John M. Olin of Alton donated 293 acres of land northwest of Alton to the Department of Conservation. In 1976 the area was conveyed to the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University for the use of the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville campus. The conveyance contained a provision that the area must be

maintained in its natural state or it shall revert to the Department of Conservation. The area includes steep limestone bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, sink holes, ravines, bedrock outcrops, small streams, a waterfall, upland forest, and loess hill prairie representative of the Glaciated Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division. The sheltered ravine forests provide potential winter roost sites for bald eagles, and eagles are known to use the area. The most outstanding natural features are the river bluffs, the waterfall, and the hill prairie.

Mr. Schwegman studied the area in 1971 and the Commission approved in principle the dedication of suitable portions as a nature preserve (Resolution 183).

A University committee is considering the dedication of suitable portions of the area. Mr. Thom recommended that 223 acres be dedicated as a nature preserve and an additional 20 acres be dedicated as buffer.

Upon motion by Dr. Schramm, seconded by Mr. DeWalt and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission gives preliminary approval to the dedication of 223 acres of real property in Madison County, Illinois described as follows:

Part of the West Half of Section 4 and Part
of the East Half of Section 3, Township 5
North, Range 10 West of the 3rd Principal
Meridian, Madison County, Illinois.

(Resolution 423)

61-18) Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve, Pulaski County:

There was further discussion of the request of Dr. Ronald Brandon for permission to collect 200 dusky salamanders from Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve for scientific research.

A letter from Dr. Ronald Brandon giving additional information on his research project and letters from Dr. Philip W. Smith and Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh commenting further on the proposed collecting had been received and distributed to Commission members since the 60th meeting.

The value of Dr. Brandon's project and the means by which he could carry it out with minimal effect on the salamander population were discussed.

It was moved by Dr. Schramm, seconded by Dr. Harris, and carried, that the motion made at the last meeting concerning the permit request of Dr. Ronald Brandon be taken off the table for reconsideration.

It was moved by Dr. Schramm and seconded by Dr. Harris that the Commission resolve its approval of the collection by Dr. Ronald Brandon of dusky salamanders from Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve over a 2-year period, provided that no more than 100 specimens shall be collected the first year and there shall be another study of relative abundance before the collection of the additional 100 specimens in the second year.

It was moved by Dr. Fralish, seconded by Dr. Ebinger, and carried, that the motion be amended to provide that the second year's collecting be subject to approval of the Commission after it has determined from the study of relative abundance that the population has not been adversely affected by the first year's collecting.

Thereupon, the resolution as amended was adopted with one opposing vote. The resolution as adopted reads as follows:

The Commission approves the collection by Dr. Ronald Brandon of dusky salamanders from Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve over a 2-year period, provided that no more than 100 specimens shall be collected the first year and the collection of an additional 100 specimens the second year shall be subject to further approval of the Commission after it has determined from a new study of relative abundance that the population has not been adversely affected by the first year's collecting.

(Resolution 424)

61-19) Middle Fork of the Vermilion River, Vermilion County:

The Commission had, in Resolution 398, opposed construction of the proposed Middle Fork reservoir and favored creation of a stream corridor park that would protect the natural aquatic ecosystem, natural areas, archaeological sites, and habitats of rare species. Twelve natural areas had been identified in the project area.

Mr. Paulson reported on the current status of the Middle Fork River area. The General Assembly has defeated the appropriation for beginning construction of the reservoir. Governor-elect Thompson has expressed the opinion that the State cannot afford to construct the reservoir at this time and has suggested the possibility of public sale of part of the land in the project area that is held by the State Division of Water Resources while retaining some of the land for conservation and recreation purposes. Much of the land in the project area has been acquired by the Division of Water Resources and by the Vermilion County Conservation District. It appears desirable at this time for the Commission to encourage dedication of suitable natural areas in State ownership.

Upon motion by Dr. Ebinger, seconded by Dr. Schramm, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission gives preliminary approval to dedication as nature preserves of the following described real property, located in Vermilion County, Illinois:

Windfall Prairie: Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 20 North, Range 12 West of the 2nd Principal Meridian; and all that part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 8 lying easterly of the centerline of the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River, all in Vermilion County, Illinois.

Horseshoe Bottom: Part of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; part of the north half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 31, Township 21 North, Range 12 West of the 2nd Principal Meridian and the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter and the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 36, Township 21 North, Range 13 West, lying easterly of the centerline of the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River, all in Vermilion County, Illinois.

(Resolution 425)

Upon motion by Mr. Graves, seconded by Mr. DeWalt, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission recommends to the Governor that the Middle Fork River and associated natural and archaeological areas, together with necessary buffer areas, be retained in public ownership and permanently preserved.

(Resolution 426)

61-20) Lockport Prairie, Will County:

Mr. Paulson reported that progress was being made on securing dedication of Lockport Prairie by the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago.

61-21) 12-Mile Prairie, Effingham, Fayette & Marion counties:

Mr. Thom reported that purchase of a scenic easement on the prairie land between the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad and Illinois Route 37 between Watson and Kinmundy has been proposed by the Illinois Department of Transportation. The railroad agreed to preserve this stretch of native prairie vegetation at the request of the Commission in 1964, but the area has been threatened by farming trespass, careless railroad work crews, and general neglect. Negotiations with the railroad over the years have not succeeded in protecting the prairie.

Upon motion by Dr. Harris, seconded by Mr. DeWalt, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission recommends that the Illinois Department of Transportation acquire a scenic easement from the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad for the prairie area known as 12-Mile Prairie between Watson and Kinmundy bordering Illinois Route 37 in Effingham, Fayette & Marion counties.

(Resolution 427)

61-22) Beall Woods Nature Preserve, Wabash County, Cross-Wabash Canal:

Mr. Paulson noted that the Corps of Engineers will release the Draft Feasibility Report for Navigation Improvements on the Wabash River on or about December 17. The Corps has indicated it will not recommend Federal participation in the project since it appears that the cost of the project would exceed the benefits to be gained.

61-23) Adjournment:

At the hour of 3:15 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Peter Schramm
Secretary

...of which it appears that the cost of the project would exceed
a gain.

minutes:

the hour of 3:15 p.m. meeting was adjourned.

Peter Schramm
Secretary

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...in the report of the committee on the subject of the project
...the committee on the subject of the project
...the committee on the subject of the project

Peter Schramm
Secretary

Illinois Nature Preserves

Commission

819 NORTH MAIN STREET
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61103
815/964-6666



NOTICE OF SIXTY-FIRST MEETING

The 61st meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission will be held on Friday, December 10, 1976 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois. Luncheon will be provided in the Board Room.

The State Museum is just southwest of the State House, on Spring and Edwards Streets. Parking may be available for persons who will be driving.

Please provide the requested information on the accompanying form so that we can complete the arrangements.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George B. Fell".

George B. Fell
Executive Secretary

November 24, 1976

1206 W. Green
7:30 AM

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

AGENDA--SIXTY-FIRST MEETING

Board Room
Illinois State Museum
Springfield, Illinois
10:00 a.m. December 10, 1976

- * Documentary material herewith
- # Documentary material previously distributed

1) Call to order and roll call

Possible attendants:

Dr. Dale E. Birkenholz
Warren DeWalt
Dr. John Ebinger
Dr. James Fralish
Gordon Graves
Dr. Alan Haney
Dr. Stanley E. Harris
Frederick Kalivoda
Dr. Peter Schramm

Dr. George Sprugel
Milton Thompson

George B. Fell
Max Hutchison
Gerald Paulson
Richard Thom
Peter Reilly

John Schwegman
Marlin Bowles
Robert Schanzle
Andy West
Charles Tamminga
Fred Tetreault

John White
Kathryn Kerr
Dr. Alfred Koelling
Dr. Kenneth Robertson
Ann Fisher

2) Adoption of agenda

* 3) Approval of 60th meeting minutes

4) Financial report

* 5) General report of INPC staff

6) General report of Conservation Department staff

7) Report of Natural Areas Inventory staff

8) Next meeting arrangements

9) Budget and program FY 78

10) Commission goals and plans

11) Public information projects

A. Proposal for movie on natural areas

REPORT
Ann Fisher

ACTION
To be considered

B. Proposal for natural area newsletter

REPORT
Paulson

ACTION
To be considered

12) Rare and endangered species

Proposal for cooperative agreement between Department of Conservation and Fish and Wildlife Service.

REPORT
Paulson and Reilly

ACTION
To be considered

13) Policy on cross-country skiing in nature preserves

ACTION
To be considered

14) Natural area legislation proposals

PROGRESS REPORT
Fell

AREAS

* 15) Clark County--Rocky Branch

Prior action: Preliminary approval 59-14 (R401)

REPORT
Thom

ACTION
Final approval of dedication

* 16) Lake County--Illinois Beach State Park, Zion marina proposal

Prior action: Discussion 60-16

Several public meetings have been held on the subject of the proposed marina in Illinois Beach State Park. The Department of Conservation is preparing a request for proposals for a feasibility study of a safe water harbor.

REPORT
Paulson

ACTION
To be considered

* 17) Madison County--Olin tract

Prior action: Approved in principle 37-13 (R183)

REPORT
Thom

ACTION
Preliminary approval of dedication

* 18) Pulaski County--Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve

#

Reconsideration of Brandon salamander collecting permit request. Comments have been received from R. A. Brandon, S. C. Kendeigh, and P. W. Smith.

ACTION
To be considered

* 19) Vermilion County--Middle Fork of the Vermilion River

Prior action: Construction of reservoir opposed; dedication of suitable natural areas as nature preserves and creation of stream corridor park favored 58-22 (R398)

REPORT
Paulson

ACTION
To be considered

* 20) Will County--Lockport Prairie

Prior action: Preliminary approval 56-25 (R381)

REPORT
Paulson

ACTION
Final approval of dedication

21) Other areas

Fayette & Marion counties--12-Mile Prairie

Prior action: Concern expressed over trespass and damage to prairie vegetation; IDOT efforts to preserve and protect prairie supported 57-18 (R387)

REPORT
Thom

ACTION
Resolution supporting IDOT acquisition of easement from railroad recommended

22) Other business

23) Adjournment

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

MINUTES OF SIXTIETH MEETING

October 1,2,1976

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ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

MINUTES OF SIXTIETH MEETING

(Subject to approval of the Commission at 61st meeting)

Holiday Inn

I-80 and Illinois 47

Morris, Illinois

7:03 p.m. October 1, 1976

9:10 a.m. October 2, 1976

60-1) Call to order:

The meeting convened at 7:03 p.m. pursuant to the call of Chairman Birkenholz.

Members present: Dr. Dale E. Birkenholz, Warren DeWalt, Dr. John Ebinger, Gordon Graves, Dr. Alan Haney, Dr. Stanley E. Harris, Frederick Kalivoda and Dr. Peter Schramm.

Member absent: Dr. James S. Fralish.

Others present: Dr. Margery C. Carlson, Consultant; George B. Fell, Executive Secretary, Max Hutchison, Gerald Paulson, and Richard Thom, Field Representatives, Gladys Campbell, Secretary, and Peter C. Reilly III, Staff Assistant, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; John Schwegman, Marlin Bowles, Robert Schanzle and Andy West, Natural Areas Section, Department of Conservation; Charles Tamminga, Associate Director, Lands & Historic Sites, Department of Conservation; Fred Tetreault, Information/Education Section, Department of Conservation; John White, Kathryn Kerr, Don Kurz and Fran Harty, Natural Areas Inventory; Dr. Glen Sanderson, Illinois Natural History Survey; Kate Staley, Karl Bartel and Steve Apfelbaum. Dr. Sanderson and Mr. Harty attended the Friday evening session only. Mr. Tamminga attended the Saturday morning session only.

60-2) Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Dr. Ebinger, seconded by Dr. Haney, and carried, that the draft agenda be adopted subject to change of sequence by the Chairman.

60-3) Minutes of 59th meeting:

It was moved by Dr. Ebinger, seconded by Mr. Graves, and carried, that the minutes of the 59th meeting, held in Oglesby, Illinois on July 29 and 30, 1976 be approved with the addition to Item 7 of the following: "Land acquisition: The Anna Walters tract (20 acres), Chauncey Marsh, Lawrence County has been acquired".

60-4) Financial report:

Mr. Fell presented the following statement of Commission expenses for the period from July 1, 1976 - August 31, 1976:

Expenses incurred on behalf of the Illinois Nature
Preserves Commission by members and Natural Land Institute

Travel, Commission members \$ 391.04

Contractual services

Personal services	\$7,339.62	
Employee benefits	1,100.95	
Insurance	24.00	
Travel, personnel	545.28	
Rent, utilities & maintenance	496.00	
Rental office equipment	170.00	
Telephone	249.53	
Postage	20.52	
Office supplies	62.54	
Field supplies	116.69	
Books, maps, photos	49.28	
Duplicating & paper	60.07	
Meeting expense	125.30	
		<u>\$10,359.78</u>
		<u>\$10,750.82</u>

Cash disbursements from General Revenue Fund appropriation

Administration, including protection of areas

Travel, Commission members	\$ 391.04	
Contract Project 1	7,392.57	

Preservation, including acquisition and dedication

Contract Project 3	1,506.03	
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Rare & endangered species study

Contract Project 4	1,076.59	
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Management

Contract Project 5	329.44	
		<u>\$10,695.67</u>

2-month apportionment from appropriation		\$11,850.00
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Amount disbursed		<u>10,695.67</u>
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Surplus for period		\$ 1,154.33
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Mr. Fell explained that the \$55.15 difference between the "expenses incurred" and "cash Disbursements" categories is due to the contract provision for payment of the Natural Land Institute by the hour of services rendered rather than for actual expenses incurred.

60-5) General report of INPC staff:

Mr. Fell reported on the following matters:

Staff activities: A summary of staff activities for July - September 24, 1976 was distributed.

Special use permits: Three special use permits have been granted since the last meeting.

Directory of members, advisors, consultants & staff: The Directory should be changed to show that John McGuire is the Director of the Department of Conservation, having replaced Anthony T. Dean who has resigned. Milton Thompson's telephone number should be corrected to read 217/782-7386.

Status of Commission-approved dedications: Dedication of an addition to Beall Woods Nature Preserve, Wabash County, and Prospect Cemetery Prairie, Ford County, are pending approval of the Director and the Governor.

Midwest Natural Area Workshop: The annual Midwest Natural Area Workshop will be held on October 15 - October 17 at the Department of Conservation's Training Center at Matthiessen State Park. Mr. Bowles is handling the arrangements.

Recognition of former Commission members: Certificates of appreciation of their services to the Commission have been prepared for the former Commission members, Roger Findley, Dr. John E. Warnock, Mrs. Evelyn Peters and Richard Reinauer.

Policy on mosquito control in nature preserves: A letter from Dr. Joyce C. Lashof, Director, Illinois Department of Public Health commenting on the Commission's policy statement and the problems of control of mosquito-borne diseases was presented.

Miller-Anderson Woods Nature Preserve, Bureau & Putnam counties: A letter from Mr. Fell to Bernard F. Guentner, Consultant to the Department of Transportation, commenting on alternate alignments of proposed FA Rt. 405 in the vicinity of the preserve was presented.

Mr. Paulson reported on the following matters:

Wheeling (Chevy Chase) Prairie, Lake County: This 50-acre high quality wet-mesic prairie on the Lake-Cook County line north of Wheeling, discovered last winter by the staff of the Natural Areas Inventory, has been destroyed despite efforts of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, The Nature Conservancy, the Department of Conservation, and the staff of the Nature Preserves Commission to protect and acquire the area. The need for a legal procedure to hold up destruction of natural areas pending acquisition was discussed.

Lockport Prairie, Will County: A letter from Mr. Paulson to Bruce Rogers, Division of Long Range Planning, Department of Conservation, concerning future custody of the proposed nature preserve was distributed. The area is owned by the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago, which wishes to assign management responsibility to another body.

60-6) General report of Conservation Department staff:

Mr. Schwegman reported on the following matters:

Land acquisition: Condemnation of 2 parcels at Chauncey Marsh, Lawrence County, totalling 74 acres was completed since the last meeting.

Directory of Illinois Nature Preserves: A new Directory of Illinois Nature Preserves has been published.

YCC Program: The Conservation Corps program of the Department resulted in construction of new boardwalks at Volo Bog, Pike Marsh, and Round Bluff, a trail at Heron Pond, and other needed improvements in nature preserves.

Prairie Day: The Prairie Day observance on September 25th was a success, with largest attendance at Goose Lake Prairie and Morton Arboretum. There were organized activities at Morton Arboretum, Lisle; Big Bluestem Project, Canton; Goose Lake Prairie State Park, Morris; Kibbe Life Science Field Station, Warsaw; Heron Pond-Wildcat Bluff Nature Preserve, Vienna; Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia; Knox College Field Station, Victoria; Illinois Beach State Park, Zion; Fults Hill Prairie Nature Preserve, Fults; Taft Field Campus, Northern Illinois University, Oregon; and Searls Park Prairie, Rockford.

Moraine Hills State Park (Lake Defiance), McHenry County: There will be a formal opening and dedication ceremony at the park on October 7.

60-7) Report of Natural Areas Inventory staff:

Mr. White reported that the summer field work was completed. Information was collected on 320 areas this summer. Out of the 320 areas, 92 already are under some sort of protection. Many of the other areas are threatened. Since July, 1975, 13 of the natural areas discovered have been destroyed. About 12 more are threatened with destruction within the next year. Approximately 10 percent of the areas identified on aerial photos had been destroyed since the photos were taken. North-eastern Illinois and southwestern Illinois have the highest rate of destruction. Railroad prairies are really threatened. The inventory has identified about 100 significant railroad prairies. Last fall the inventory team flew 7,000 miles of track and observed 5 stretches of possible prairie being destroyed by bulldozing. Since then 5 additional areas have been destroyed by plowing or bulldozing. The cemetery prairie inventory has been done using volunteers. Seventy-seven people worked on inventorying about 3,000 cemetery prairies. The best ones will be re-checked by the inventory staff. Information has also been obtained from Dr. Robert Betz, who, over the years, has checked 900 cemeteries in the northern 40 counties and has found 44 significant cemetery prairie remnants. The Natural Area Inventory will probably add about 25 more. Three cemeteries are already known to be of nature preserve quality. Their locations are north of Litchfield in Montgomery County (2 acres), near Effingham in Effingham County (1 acre), and near Loda in Iroquois County (3½ - 4 acres).

Mr. Schwegman discussed means of securing preservation of some of the natural areas being found pending completion of the inventory and development of a program of State acquisition of the most important areas. Information on the areas will be made available to forest preserve and conservation districts and to urban planning agencies. Systematic contacting of owners of natural areas is desirable to secure at least temporary preservation. An effort will be made to secure cooperation of the railroad companies in preserving railroad prairies. It may be possible to have the Illinois Department of Transportation secure scenic easements on railroad prairies bordering highways. Counties should be encouraged to establish conservation or forest preserve districts. It would be desirable to have new legislation, including additional provisions concerning a registry of natural areas.

60-8) Next meeting arrangements:

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Friday, December 10, 1976 at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield.

60-9) Budget & Program, FY77:

Mr. Fell presented a revised project budget for FY77 based on experience during the first 3 months of the year and a reordering of priorities for the remainder of the year. The projects covering general administration, protection of areas, and preservation of areas are increased, and the projects covering preparation of the biennial report, rare and endangered species, and surveillance and management of preserves are decreased.

60-10) Prairie Chicken Refuges, Jasper & Marion counties:

Mr. Fell reviewed the background on the dedication of the prairie chicken refuges as nature preserves. The Natural History Survey manages the areas for the Department of Conservation and The Nature Conservancy.

Dr. Sanderson reported that the prairie chickens have experienced two poor nesting years and show an 11 percent decline in population this year. Reduction of the small mammal population by wet weather, along with poor cover, has resulted in increased predation on the prairie chickens. Pheasants have also been increasingly competing with the prairie chickens in Jasper County sanctuaries. They lay eggs in prairie chicken nests which hatch before those of the prairie chickens. As a result, the prairie chicken hens leave the nests with the pheasant chicks and their own eggs fail to hatch. These problems are under continuing study by the Natural History Survey; and corrective action is being taken when considered appropriate, as provided for in the approved master plan for the preserves. Trapping of predators has been tried, but predator control has not been demonstrated to be effective. Cleanup work has been done on dumps and debris to reduce the habitat for predators.

60-11) Lake Forest Open Lands Area, Lake County:

Mr. Paulson reported on the natural area within the holdings of the Lake Forest Open Lands Association and The Nature Conservancy on the Skokie River in Lake Forest. This is an area of wet-mesic prairie, stream-side forest, and marsh located in the Skokie River valley. It is part of a larger tract of land being acquired by the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in cooperation with the Lake Forest Open Lands Association. Some of the best prairie has been donated to The Nature Conservancy, and additional prairie areas are potential donations. Approximately 50 acres of prairie and woodland lying north of Laurel Avenue is suitable for dedication as an Illinois nature preserve. Most of the land proposed for dedication is owned by The Nature Conservancy. The remainder is in private ownership but is being kept as prairie by the owners.

Upon motion by Mr. Graves, seconded by Dr. Ebinger and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission approves in principle the dedication of suitable portions of the Lake Forest Open Lands area as a nature preserve.

60-12) Volo Bog Nature Preserve, Lake County, freeway location:

Mr. Fell reviewed the situation concerning the proposed FA Rt. 420 freeway in the vicinity of Volo, Brandenburg and Pistakee Bogs.

On January 17, 1975, the Commission, in Resolution 366, expressed its serious concern about the possible effects of the proposed alignment between the bogs and urged the Department of Transportation to restudy and reconsider the alternate alignment to the south of Volo Bog. This resolution was transmitted to the Department of Transportation. The DOT responded that in their view it would be an unnecessary expenditure of funds to conduct the studies which the Commission suggested.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was issued March 2, 1976. There was a field meeting of representatives of the Illinois Department of Transportation, Department of Conservation, Fish & Wildlife Service, Nature Preserves Commission and others on April 28, 1976, at which the Commission staff expressed the Commission's concern regarding the alignment between the bogs.

The Commission staff submitted a letter commenting on the DEIS to the Department of Transportation on June 18, 1976, copies of which had been distributed to the Commission.

Mr. Schwegman presented a letter from the Department of Conservation to the Department of Transportation dated September 30, 1976, stating that the Department of Conservation approves of a modified alignment between the bogs.

There followed discussion of the history of negotiations concerning the highway alignment and of the possible impacts of the two alignments on the bogs.

Upon motion by Mr. Kalivoda, seconded by Dr. Schramm, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission records its opposition to the proposed location of FA Route 420 through the Volo Bog area.

(Resolution 411)

The staff was instructed to notify the IDOT and all appropriate public agencies, conservation organizations, and the press of the Commission's action.

60-13) Big Bend Nature Preserve, LaSalle County:

Mr. Paulson reported that the Board of The Nature Conservancy has voted to change the name of the Big Bend Nature Preserve to the Margery C. Carlson Nature Preserve, in recognition of her efforts to preserve this area.

Upon motion by Mr. Graves, seconded by Mr. DeWalt, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

In recognition of the services Dr. Margery C. Carlson has given to protection of natural areas in Illinois and her efforts to preserve the area known as Big Bend in LaSalle County, the Commission approves the change of name of the Big Bend Nature Preserve to the Margery C. Carlson Nature Preserve.

(Resolution 412)

60-14) Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve, Mason County, black locust control:

In response to a request from the Natural Areas Section of the Department of Conservation, the Commission had approved, by mail vote, the use of Krenite as a herbicide on black locust on a specified portion of Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve.

Upon motion by Dr. Ebinger, seconded by Dr. Harris, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission affirms its approval of use of Krenite as a herbicide for control of black locust on three acres of Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve.

(Resolution 413)

Mr. Schanzle reported on the progress that had been made in eradicating black locust from the preserve and presented slides showing results of the treatment. Under contract with the Department of Conservation, the Natural Land Institute had made basal application of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T to 18 to 20 acres of black locust and had injected Tordon 101R into larger trees in a limited area. The Department of Conservation had also bulldozed the locusts on about 30 acres and had sprayed Krenite on 2 acres.

The meeting recessed at 10:30 p.m. and reconvened at 9:10 a.m. Saturday morning, October 2, 1976.

60-15) Budget & Program, FY78:

Mr. Tamminga discussed the proposed FY78 budget for the Division of Lands & Historic Sites, which includes the Commission's budget. If the Division is reduced to 90 percent of the current year (the low end of the anticipated range), he anticipates the Commission will also receive 90 percent. If the Division receives 98 to 99 percent, the Commission will receive 100 percent. If additional funding is available to the Division, the Commission's budget may be increased to either 104 percent or 109 to 110 percent of the current year. He has estimated that the Division will need 107 percent to keep up with the current level of activity. If the Division receives 111.7 percent, it will be able to undertake minimal expansion, including opening 4 sites that were completed in FY76.

60-16) Illinois Beach, Lake County, Zion marina proposal:

Mr. Tamminga said the Department of Conservation is planning to make a study of the feasibility of building a marina within the new north section of Illinois

Beach State Park. The study will be contracted out, and the Department has developed the scope of work. The contractor will be required to secure participation of Charles Collinson of the Illinois State Geological Survey in the study. The proposed marina would use Robinson Pond (an old sand pit), with a channel to the lake and a safe water harbor. The study objectives will be to determine whether or not the marina is physically feasible, what its environmental effects would be, and what its cost would be. The physical feasibility of the marina is not yet assured. Shoreline erosion is a serious problem in the Illinois Beach area, and the construction of a breakwater for the marina might accelerate the erosion damage on the adjoining shoreline. Cost of the study is estimated at \$200,000 and duration will be in excess of a year. The Department is also studying the feasibility of developing a marina at Waukegan harbor as an alternative.

The City of Zion has recently publicized a proposal that 500 acres of the Illinois Beach area be leased to Zion to be developed as a large scale marina and convention center. Mr. Tamminga said the Department of Conservation will not lease out the land to the City of Zion and will not approve construction of buildings on the site or construction of a marina of the magnitude proposed by Zion.

Mr. Paulson commented on Hosah Park and other natural areas in the north unit of Illinois Beach State Park that the Natural Areas Inventory has identified. He pointed out that the Illinois Environmental Council and other citizens groups were concerned that the marina/convention center proposed by the City of Zion could become established as a result of political pressure.

A discussion of the impacts of the marina on natural values of the area followed.

60-17) Sielbeck Forest tract, Massac County:

Mr. Hutchison reported on the Louis Sielbeck tract. The area is 120 acres of bottomland timber containing a cypress-tupelo swamp and a bordering lowland woods of high natural quality. The property has been owned by the same family for over 125 years; and the present owner, who resides on the property, has expressed an interest in providing for preservation of the woods.

Upon motion by Mr. Kalivoda, seconded by Dr. Schramm, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission recommends preservation of the Sielbeck Forest in Massac County and approves in principle the dedication of the area as a nature preserve.

(Resolution 414)

60-18) Lusk Creek Nature Preserve, Pope County, access:

Mr. West presented a proposal for public access facilities at Lusk Creek Canyon. It is proposed that the traditional pedestrian access to the main gorge and Indian Kitchen formation of Lusk Creek be abandoned and a new trailhead facility be established on U.S. Forest Service land, which would require a special use permit from the Forest Service. The Forest Service has said it cannot approve the plan because the area is part of the eastern wilderness study area. The Department of Conservation is continuing to discuss the problem with the Forest Service.

Upon motion by Dr. Haney, seconded by Dr. Ebinger, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission approves relocation of public access at Lusk Creek Nature Preserve, Pope County, to a trail coming in on upland from the west through Forest Service land and closure of the present trail which comes in from the south along Lusk Creek and passes through private land.

(Resolution 415)

60-19) Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve, Pulaski County, collecting permit:

Mr. West reported that, pursuant to the action of the Commission at its last meeting, he had done additional censusing of the salamanders by locating individuals under superficial cover in suitable habitat. In 12 hours of census work, including both the time spent in June and in September, he covered approximately 7,880 feet of ravine habitat, including 5 ravines. He observed a total of 651 salamanders, including 189 adults and 462 juveniles and subadults. He recommended approval of the permit with the constraint that collecting be restricted to one ravine.

It was moved by Mr. Kalivoda and seconded by Dr. Haney, that Mr. West's census report on relative abundance of the dusky salamander in Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve be accepted and that Dr. Ronald Brandon's request for a permit to collect 200 of the salamanders from the preserve be approved.

There was discussion of the adequacy of the census, the ability of the population to sustain the proposed collecting, the appropriateness of using the nature preserve for the proposed research, the appropriateness of collecting a species tentatively classed by the Commission staff as "vulnerable" because of restricted range in Illinois, and the general policy the Commission should have on mass collecting from nature preserves for research purposes.

It was moved by Dr. Haney and seconded by Mr. Graves that the motion be tabled.

The motion to table was defeated.

A vote was taken on the original motion and lost on a vote of four to four.

Thereupon, it was moved by Dr. Haney, seconded by Mr. Graves, and carried, that action on the matter be tabled until the next meeting and that additional information be obtained from Dr. Brandon and opinions on the basis of presently available information be sought from Drs. Philip W. Smith and S. Charles Kendeigh.

60-20) Freeport Prairie, Stephenson County:

Mr. Paulson presented a proposal for dedication of Freeport Prairie as a nature preserve. The area is a 5-acre high quality dry limestone prairie, located one-half mile south of Freeport, that is being donated to the Jane Addamsland Park Foundation for preservation. The area is a north-facing slope with shallow soil over Galena dolomite. The vegetation includes little bluestem, prairie drop-seed, side-oats grama, with some Indian grass, big bluestem, and prairie brome, and a diversity of forbs including pasque flower, downy Indian painted cup, and prairie smoke.

Upon motion by Mr. Graves, seconded by Dr. Haney, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission gives preliminary approval to dedication as a nature preserve of the following described real property of 5.48 acres, located in Stephenson County, Illinois:

Part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter and the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter all in Section 6, Township 26 North, Range 8 East of the 4th P.M., in Silver Creek Township, Stephenson County, Illinois.

(Resolution 416)

60-21) Colored Sands Bluff, Winnebago County:

Articles of dedication for Colored Sands Bluff had been approved by the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District and forwarded to the Commission for its approval. Preliminary approval of dedication as a nature preserve had been given by the Commission at its 59th meeting (Resolution 409). Mr. Fell explained that the Forest Preserve District had made a minor change in the boundaries of the area as described in Resolution 409. This was for the purpose of excepting a right-of-way 33 feet in width from the easterly edge of the tract in order to assure access to part of the District's land.

Upon motion by Dr. Ebinger, seconded by Dr. Schramm, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission approves dedication as a nature preserve of real property of approximately 44 acres owned by the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District located in Winnebago County, Illinois, and described as follows:

Parcel 1: That part of the North Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 32, Township 29 North, Range 11 East of the 4th Principal Meridian lying West of a line 53 rods West of the East line of said Section 32; East of the Sugar River, and North of the former roadway right-of-way of Yale Bridge Road;

Parcel 2: All that part of the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 29, Township 29 North, Range 11 East of the 4th Principal Meridian lying East of the Sugar River; excepting therefrom the Northeast diagonal half of the North 300 feet of the East 300 feet thereof and the South 550 feet of the East 375 feet thereof, being situated in Winnebago County, Illinois; further excepting therefrom the following described premises:

Beginning at a point on the South line of said Section 29, 375 feet West of the Southeast corner of said Section 29, thence West along the South line of said Section 29, a distance of 499.5 feet to a point; thence North along a line parallel with the East line of said Section 29, a distance of 49.5 feet to a point; thence East along a line parallel with the South line of said Section 29, a distance of 499.5 feet to a point, thence South along a line parallel with the East line of said Section 29, a distance of 49.5 feet to the place of beginning; and further excepting therefrom the following described premises:

Beginning at a point on the East line of said Section 29, 550 feet North of the Southeast corner of said Section 29, thence North along the East line of said Section 29, a distance of 470.8 feet to a point; thence Northwesterly along a line bearing North 45° 0'0" West, a distance of 70.00 feet to a point; thence South along a line parallel with the East line of said Section 29, a distance of 520.3 feet to a point; thence East along a line parallel with the North line of said Section 29, a distance of 49.5 feet to the place of beginning.

(Resolution 417)

60-22) Manito Prairie (Tazewell Gravel Terrace Prairie), Tazewell County:

A report on Manito Prairie by Dr. Robert Betz had been distributed. The 15-acre prairie is on a slope of a gravel terrace of the Illinois River approximately 6 miles northeast of Manito. It contains over fifty species of prairie plants, including the Federally threatened Tennessee milk vetch, (*Astragalus tennesseensis*) and prairie satin grass (*Muhlenbergia cuspidata*) a species that is rare in Illinois. Mr. Schwegman reported that The Nature Conservancy is considering undertaking acquisition of the prairie.

Upon motion by Mr. Kalivoda, seconded by Dr. Ebinger, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission recommends preservation of the 15-acre tract known as Tazewell Gravel Terrace Prairie or Manito Prairie in Tazewell County and approves in principle the dedication of the area as a nature preserve.

(Resolution 418)

60-23) Massasauga Prairie, Warren County:

At its 50th meeting, the Commission had considered Massasauga Prairie and had recommended its preservation (Resolution 324). Because of the quality and uniqueness of the area, Mr. Fell proposed that the Commission recommend it for State acquisition.

Upon motion by Mr. Graves, seconded by Dr. Ebinger, and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Commission recommends acquisition by the Department of Conservation and dedication as a nature preserve of approximately 92.1 acres of real property known as Massasauga Prairie in Sections 13 and 24, Township 9 North, Range 2 West of the 4th P.M., Warren County, Illinois.

(Resolution 419)

60-24) Little Black Slough, Johnson County, Interim Management Plan:

Mr. Schwegman presented and briefly reviewed the Department's interim management plan for Little Black Slough. The plan proposes the dedication of lands in the Goose Pond, Boss Island, and Boulder Slope Woods areas as nature preserve. Other parts of the area would be managed to retain or restore their original natural character, while allowing backpack camping, canoeing, hunting, and fishing. Vehicular access would be restricted to the periphery of the area.

60-25) Harlem Hills Nature Preserve, Winnebago County:

Mr. Fell reported that he had met with Loves Park officials and the County Superintendent of Highways regarding a proposed extension of Windsor Road in the vicinity of Harlem Hills Nature Preserve. An undeveloped right-of-way 33 feet in width passes through the southerly part of the nature preserve. The local officials are proposing to vacate the present right-of-way and to place the road across the southerly edge of the nature preserve. The County Superintendent of Highways will make an engineering feasibility study of the proposed alignment.

60-26) Railroad prairies:

There was discussion of a letter and report by Professor Douglas E. Wade of Northern Illinois University Taft Field Campus, Oregon, on the matter of preserving railroad prairies. The Commission expressed its concern for protection of railroad prairie remnants and its support for more volunteer efforts, as proposed by Douglas Wade.

60-27) Goose Lake Prairie Management Committee:

Dr. Schramm expressed the need for new members for the Goose Lake Prairie Management Committee. He suggested Dr. Alfred Koelling of the Illinois State Museum and Dr. Roger Anderson from Illinois State University.

It was moved by Dr. Ebinger, seconded by Dr. Haney, and carried, that Dr. Alfred Koelling and Dr. Roger Anderson be appointed to the Goose Lake Prairie Management Advisory Committee.

60-28) Adjournment:

At the hour of 11:30 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Peter Schramm
Secretary

1000

1000

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1000

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1000

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1000

1000

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION
FINANCIAL REPORT
September 1, 1976 - November 30, 1976

Expenses incurred on behalf of INPC by members & NLI

<u>Travel, Commission members</u>		\$ 313.63
<u>Contractual services</u>		
Personal services	\$11,993.91	
Employee benefits	1,799.09	
Unemployment compensation liability	27.00	
Insurance	36.00	
Travel, personnel	1,168.35	
Rent, utilities & maintenance	744.00	
Rental, office equipment	255.00	
Telephone	594.89	
Postage	232.68	
Office supplies	39.79	
Field supplies	17.00	
Books, maps, photos	96.58	
Duplicating & paper	122.66	
Meeting expense	<u>71.57</u>	
		<u>17,198.52</u>
		<u>\$17,512.15</u>
<u>Cash disbursements</u>		
From General Revenue Fund appropriation		
Administration, including protection of areas		
Travel, Commission members	\$ 313.63	
Contract Project 1	10,231.95	
Preservation, including acquisition and dedication		
Contract Project 3	4,964.61	
Rare & endangered species		
Contract Project 4	933.17	
Management		
Contract Project 5	<u>1,025.63</u>	
		<u>\$17,468.99</u>
3-month apportionment from appropriation		\$17,775.00
Amount disbursed		<u>17,468.99</u>
Surplus for period		\$ 306.01

MAJOR STAFF ACTIVITIES

Natural Areas Section
Illinois Department of Conservation

October 1, 1976 to December 10, 1976

Public Relations and Information

Spoke to participants of First Central Hardwoods Forest Conference at S.I.U. on Natural Area programs in Illinois.

Guided Kaskaskia Chapter of Illinois Audubon Society on a tour of the 12 Mile Prairie in Marion County.

Gave program on endangered plants in Illinois to the Annual Conservation Conference of Garden Clubs of Illinois.

Gave presentation on the Nature Preserves system to the Mt. Vernon District Garden Club.

Provided interpretive service at the official opening of Moraine Hills State Park, McHenry County.

Advised the public of the availability of the Nature Preserves Directory through the Departmental newsletter.

Meetings Attended

Hosted and attended the Third Annual Midwest Natural Areas Workshop at the Conservation Training Center, Oglesby, IL (Bowles, Schwegman, Schanzle, West)

Central Hardwoods Forest Conference at S.I.U. (Schwegman, Bowles, West)

Nature Preserves Commission on Commission Staff Function in Normal, IL (Schwegman)

Illinois Technical Forestry Association in Des Plaines (Bowles)

Departmental Supervisory Staff Meeting at Horseshoe Lake (Schwegman, West)

Management

Presented training lectures to four groups of Department Site Superintendents on maintenance and management of Nature Preserves and Natural Areas (Schwegman, Schanzle)

Management (con't.)

Met with Site Superintendent of Horseshoe Lake Nature Preserve on management problems, posting and location of national natural landmark plaque.

Approved of revision in Amax Coal's mining plan for Beall Woods and their request for core drilling on our property.

Completed preparation of critical and notable features files for all Department-owned nature preserves.

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Met with Ron Westemier of the Illinois Natural History Survey to discuss the department's role in management of the Prairie Chicken Sanctuary.

Established additional photo stations at Posen Woods and Chauncey Marsh.

Met with Corps of Engineers naturalist at Carlyle Lake to survey local Massassauga habitat.

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Continued discussions with Ronald Brandon pertaining to his request to collect Dusky Salamanders at Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve.

Met with YCC representatives to discuss future programs in Southern Illinois Nature Preserves.

Inventoried Sweet clover invasion at Reavis Nature Preserve.

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Assisted in layout of future nature trails at Hidden Springs State Forest.

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Worked on Master Management Plans for Rock Cut, Kankakee River, Chain O'Lakes, Horseshoe Lake (Madison), Giant City, and Fort de Chartres.

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Inventoried natural areas north of Shiloh Avenue at Illinois Beach State Park addition and met with the regional land manager and site planning to discuss possible future developments.

Conducted a field review of proposed dredging spoil sites along the Chain O'Lakes system.

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Warrant has been requested for tract 5 (5 acres) at Volo Bog. This parcel joins the dedicated bog on the west.

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Discussed Pecumsaugan Creek preservation with Commonwealth Edison.

Visited Sielbeck Tract with representative of the Nature Preserves Commission regarding preservation of the area.

ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY

205 Mumford Hall — Urbana, Illinois 61801, (217) 333-2200

SURVEY PERSONNEL

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
John Bacone	607 Harwood Court, Champaign, IL 61820	217-356-8259
Fahkri Bazzaz	Botany Dept., Morrill Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801	217-333-6177
George Fell	819 North Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103	815-964-6666
Fran Harty	236 Tilton Drive, DeKalb 60115	815-756-3279
Max Hutchison	Belknap, IL 62908	618-658-8654
Kathryn Kerr	904 S. Anderson, Urbana, IL 61801	217-367-8770
Don Kurz	301 S. Giant City Road, Carbondale, IL 62901	618-549-0891
Randy Nyboer	Star Route, Box 92, Brussels, IL 62013	618-883-2631
Gerald Paulson	819 N. Main St., Rockford, IL 61103	815-964-6666
John Schwegman	Project Coordinator, Natural Areas Section, Illinois Department of Conservation, 605 State Office Building Springfield, IL 62706	217-782-1823
Rick Thom	819 N. Main St., Rockford, IL 61103	815-964-6666
Doug Wallace	706 N. Edwards, Macomb, IL 61455	309-837-4050
John White	205 Mumford Hall, Urbana, IL 61801	217-333-2200

mah/11-5-76

PROTECTION
LEVEL

COST EACH
ACTION

ACTIONS
WITH \$100,000

EIS
ANALYSIS

Notification

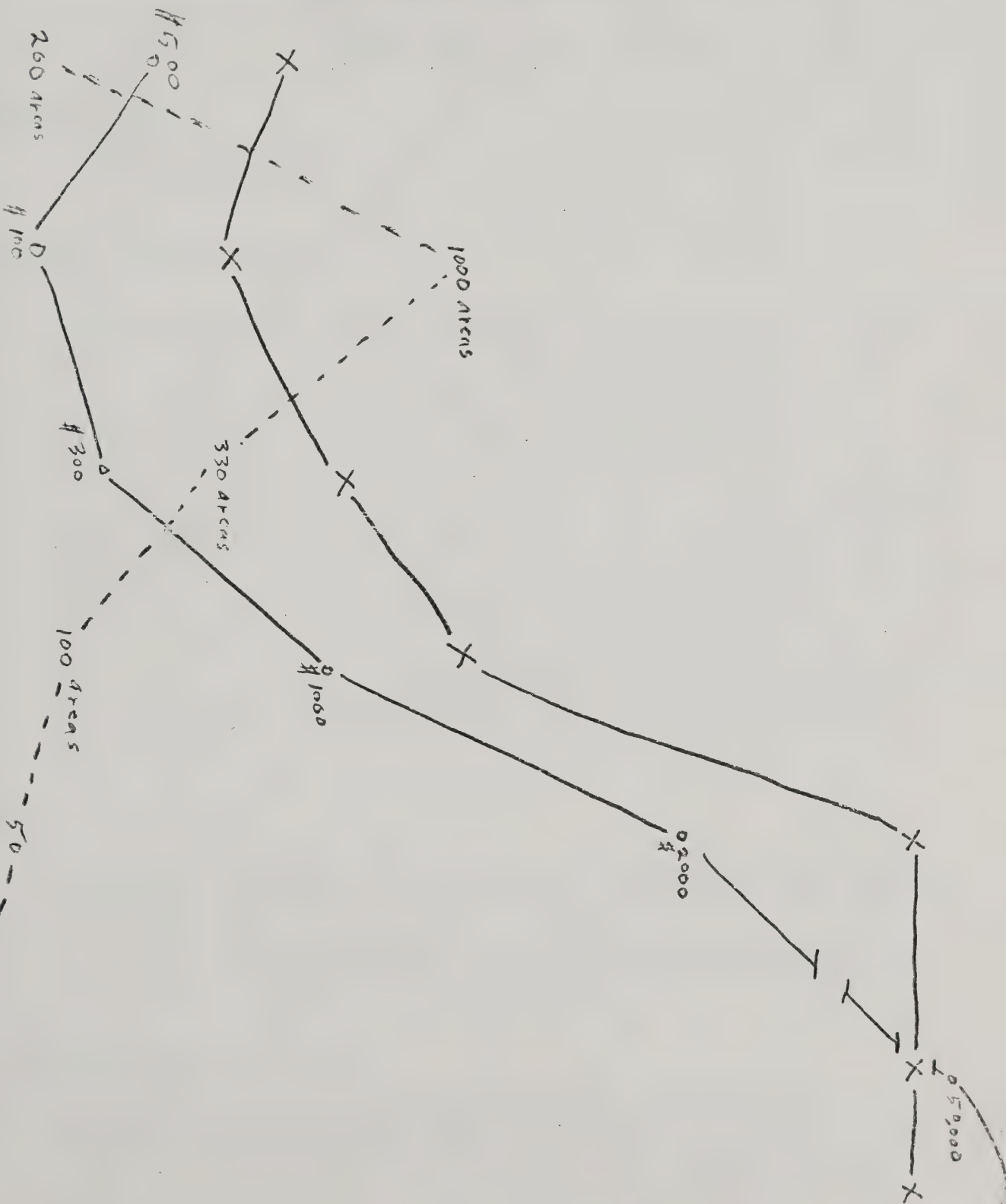
Registry

Designation

Dedication

LESS
FEE

FEE



ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION
SIXTY-FIRST MEETING

STAFF REPORT

A) Staff activities

September 27 - November 30, 1976

B) Meetings attended by staff

10/7 Moraine Hills State Park (Lake Defiance) dedication ceremony (Fell)
10/15-17 Midwest Natural Areas Workshop, Matthiessen State Park (Fell,
Paulson, Thom, Hutchison, Reilly)
10/18 Midwest Forestry Conference, Southern Illinois University,
Carbondale (Hutchison)
10/19 Conservation easement conference, Chicago (Fell, Reilly)
11/16 " " " " (Fell)
10/20 Thorn Creek Woods Management Committee meeting, Park Forest South
(Paulson)
10/27 Garden Club of Illinois Conservation Conference, Allerton Park
(Paulson)
10/27-29 Illinois Technical Foresters meeting, Schaumburg (Thom)
10/29 Jane Addamsland Park Foundation meeting and acceptance of
Freeport Prairie (Fell, Paulson)
11/5-7 Central Midwest Regional Conference of the National Audubon
Society, Nashville, Indiana (Paulson, Reilly)
11/17 Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission, Frankfort, Kentucky (Fell)
11/17 John Wesley Powell Audubon Society, Bloomington (Paulson)

C) Status of dedications

Prospect Cemetery Prairie, Ford County (5 acres) approved October 20, 1976.
Beall Woods Nature Preserve addition, Wabash County (39 acres) approved
October 20, 1976.
Colored Sands Bluff, Winnebago County (44 acres) pending approval of the
Director of the Department of Conservation and the Governor.

D) Dr. Margery C. Carlson

Dr. Carlson is convalescing from a broken hip at her home at
2308 Hartzell Street, Evanston 60201

E) Dr. Charles E. Olmsted

Dr. Olmsted passed away on November 20, 1976 at his home in Boulder, Colorado. Dr. Olmsted served as Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Commission from September 8, 1972 to October 10, 1974.

F) Chicago Area Systematists and Ecologists

This new group of botanists and zoologists meets monthly at the Morton Arboretum. Anyone interested can contact Dr. Paul Sorenson, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb 60115.

G) Other state natural area programs

Mr. Paulson moderated a panel discussion on state natural area systems with representatives of natural area programs from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Mr. Fell spoke to the new Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission about the Illinois nature preserves system on November 17. The Kentucky legislation, which was modeled after the Illinois law, was approved on March 29, 1976. Jon Rickert, Elizabethtown, Kentucky, was instrumental in securing passage of the legislation and is chairman of the Commission.

AREAS

H) Cook County--Sand Ridge Nature Preserve, brush removal

Approval has been given to cut brush from the prairie and marsh areas.

* I) Lake County--Volo Bog Nature Preserve, freeway location
Prior action: Proposed location opposed 60-12 (R411)

A statement on the Commission's stand on the highway was distributed. A response was received from Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation.

J) Lawrence County--Robeson Hills Nature Preserve

Vincennes University has applied for development grant from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for an interpretive center. The grant approval may be linked to dedication of additions to the nature preserve.

K) Ogle County--Ogle County Prairie Preservation Society

The Prairie Preservation Society has a contract to acquire approximately 11 acres of prairie in northeastern Ogle County and has started a fund raising campaign. The Natural Land Institute may receive a donation of a 20-acre prairie tract.

L) Stephenson County--Freeport Prairie

Prior action: Preliminary approval 60-20 (R416)

The 6-acre prairie was donated to the Jane Addamsland Park Foundation on October 10, 1976.

M) Warren County--Massasauga Prairie

Prior action: Acquisition and dedication recommended 60-23 (R419)

The Department of Conservation has requested that The Nature Conservancy negotiate with the owners for acquisition of this area.

N) Williamson County--Crab Orchard Wilderness

Prior action: Position statement of DOC supported with reservations 51-11 (R326)

The omnibus wilderness bill which included 4,050 acres in the Crab Orchard Wilderness Refuge, Williamson County, was signed by President Ford on October 19, 1976 making it the first official wilderness area in Illinois.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

COLLEGE OF LAW · 209 LAW BUILDING · CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS 61820 · (217) 333-0931

INPC 61
Item 5

November 10, 1976

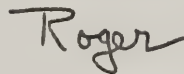
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
819 North Main Street
Rockford, Illinois 61103

Dear friends:

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending the certificate of appreciation for my efforts on the Commission. The work and personal associations were among the most satisfying I have ever had, and I trust that both will continue, though at a reduced level.

With all good wishes for dealing successfully with archers, nudists, pine trees, motorcyclists, D.O.T., the Corps, a new Director of Conservation and other adversaries and allies, old and new,

Sincerely,



Roger W. Findley
Professor of Law

RWF/nr

November 22, 1976

Dr. Dale E. Birkenholz, Chairman
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Department of Biological Sciences
Illinois State University
Normal, Illinois 61761

Dear Dale:

It was a real pleasure to receive the nice expression of appreciation from members of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. I very much enjoyed the opportunity and privilege to serve on the Commission.

If in the future I might be of assistance in attaining Commission objectives and in conduct of Commission affairs, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I thank you and other members of the Commission for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

John E. Warnock
Professor

cc: Mr. George B. Fell, Executive Secretary, INPC

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION
Summary of Staff Activities
October 1, 1976 - October 31, 1976

PROJECT 1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION & PROTECTION OF AREAS

INPC meetings: Attended 60th meeting of Commission and field trip to Goose Lake Prairie Nature Preserve. Drafted minutes of 60th meeting.

Central Midwest Hardwood Forest Conference: Attended Conference in Carbondale.

Moraine Hills State Park, McHenry County: Attended dedication ceremonies.

Midwest Natural Areas Workshop: Attended Midwest Natural Areas Workshop at Matthiessen State Park and participated in field trip to Goose Lake Prairie Nature Preserve.

Conservation Easement Conference: Attended Conservation Easement Conference in Chicago.

Freeport Prairie, Stephenson County: Attended and spoke at dedication ceremonies for Freeport Prairie.

Illinois Technical Foresters Association/Society of American Foresters Joint Meeting: Attended meeting in Schaumburg.

Work plans for FY 77: Continued work on Plans of Work for FY 77.

Liaison with Commission members: Conferred with Commission members regarding staff activities, problems and work.

Public relations:

Little Black Slough, Johnson County: Showed area to reporters.

Johnson and Pulaski County Areas: Guided personnel from Morton Arboretum on field trip.

Garden Clubs of Illinois Conservation Conference: Spoke at conference at Allerton Park about nature preserves system.

Protection from threats:

Volo Bog Nature Preserve, Lake County: Wrote and distributed news release on Commission's position on proposed FAP Route 420 in the vicinity of Volo Bog.

Miller-Anderson Woods Nature Preserve, Bureau & Putnam counties: Continued work on proposed FA Route 405 in the vicinity of Miller-Anderson Woods.

Harlem Hills Nature Preserve, Winnebago County: Worked on map of proposed extension of Windsor Road and alternate alignment.

Airport (Bell Bowl) Prairie, Winnebago County: Attended public hearing on expansion of Greater Rockford Airport. Prepared written comments on Environmental Assessment report in relation to destruction of Airport Prairie natural area.

PROJECT 3. PRESERVATION, INCLUDING ACQUISITION AND DEDICATION

Robeson Hills Nature Preserve addition, Lawrence County: Revised legal description of proposed addition to nature preserve; reviewed Vincennes University's application for grant for developing an interpretive center and conferred with other agencies.

Lindroth tract, Ogle County: Survey and conferences with owner on methods of preserving prairie area.

Odum tract, Johnson County: Surveyed area.

Warner tract, Johnson County: Surveyed area.

Jackson land, Johnson County: Surveyed area.

Buttonland tract, Johnson & Pulaski County: Surveyed areas.

Sielbeck tract, Massac County: Conference with owner and survey of area.
Pulaski, Johnson, Massac, Pope & Hardin counties: Airplane survey of natural areas.
Big Creek, Hardin County: Continued efforts to publicize preservation values of the Big Creek Watershed.
Lockport Prairie, Will County: Continued discussions with Metropolitan Sanitary District, Open Lands Project, Will County Forest Preserve District and Department of Conservation about dedication of prairie.
Thorn Creek Woods, Will County: Attended Thorn Creek Management Committee meeting to discuss dedication of the woods; inspected new trail.
Severson Dells Forest Preserve, Winnebago County: Worked on master plan for Severson Dells Forest Preserve, including proposed nature preserve.
Reppert Prairie, Henry County: Wrote proposal for preservation of Reppert Prairie.
Savanna Army Depot, Jo Daviess County: Surveyed area; discussed management and preservation of areas with agronomist.
Fairchild cemetery prairie, Vermilion County: Worked with interested local citizens and local officials to obtain permission to manage cemetery as a natural prairie.
Afton cemetery prairie, DeKalb County: Began negotiations for dedication as nature preserve.
Hetzler cemetery prairie, Bureau County: Began negotiations for dedication as nature preserve.
Prairie preservation and management guide: Worked on outline for prairie remnant preservation and management guide.
Railroad prairies: Corresponded with Doug Wade on efforts to preserve railroad prairies.

PROJECT 4. RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Compiled and typed introduction to list of rare and endangered plants; duplicated and mailed plant list to interested persons.

PROJECT 5. MANAGEMENT

Goose Lake Prairie Management Advisory Committee: Attended meeting of the Committee; notified new members of appointments.
Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve, Pulaski County: Corresponded with consultants on Dr. Brandon's application to collect Dusky Salamanders.
Pike Marsh, McHenry County: Inspected boardwalk.
Volo Bog Nature Preserve, Lake County: Inspected boardwalk.
Castle Rock, Ogle County: Conferred on planting of pines in developed area.
Ryerson Nature Preserve, Lake County: Discussed use of nature preserve for cross-country skiing.

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

Summary of Staff Activities

November 1, 1976 - November 30, 1976

PROJECT 1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION & PROTECTION OF AREAS

INPC meetings: Compiled, typed, duplicated and distributed 60th meeting minutes. Prepared agenda materials for 61st meeting; made arrangements for meeting.

Public relations:

National Audubon Society Regional Conference: Attended and led panel discussion on state natural area systems.

Newspaper & radio interviews: Interviewed by Rockford newspaper on role of fire in the environment and the nature preserves system. Radio interview on nature preserves system.

John Wesley Powell Audubon Society: Attended and presented talk and slide show on nature preserves system.

Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission: Attended meeting of Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission and talked to new Commission about Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. Conferred with Chairman of Kentucky Commission and distributed further information on the Illinois nature preserves program.

Conservation easement conference: Attended conference in Chicago

Legislation: Worked on draft of legislation for a register of natural areas.

Budget & plan of work: Conferences with Commission members and DOC.

Landowner contact procedures: Worked on plan for preservation of natural areas.

Protection:

Illinois Beach State Park, Lake Co.: Discussed proposed Zion marina with DOC personnel
Airport (Bell Bowl) Prairie, Winnebago County: Conferred with airport personnel and checked on management activities.

Mississippi Kite, Union Co.: Reviewed correspondence; conferred with Cooperative Wildlife Research.

Proposed Illinois Forestry Plan: Reviewed and commented.

Silver Creek Natural areas, St. Clair Co.: Surveyed areas; attended Corps. of Engineers public hearing on watershed study; conference with DOC.

Upper Cache River Watershed Project, Union, Johnson, Pope, Massac & Pulaski counties: Met with SCS planners and discussed watershed project.

Southern Illinois Power Coop, Pope & Hardin counties: Conference with DOC and comments
Army Corps of Engineers on utility line ROW.

Project 3. PRESERVATION, INCLUDING ACQUISITION AND DEDICATION

Middle Fork of the Vermilion River, Vermilion County: Reviewed Commission position and formulated recommendations on dedication and other disposition of Division of Water Resources lands.

Lockport Prairie, Will County: Continued discussions with Open Lands Project, Metropolitan Sanitary District and Will County Forest Preserve District about dedication.

Braidwood Prairie, Will County: Investigated status of proposed powerline ROW through part of area.

Ipsen Prairie, Boone County: Communicated with Boone County Conservation District about preservation along C&NW RR west of Belvidere.

Frankfort Cemetery Prairie, Will County: Initiated discussion of dedication.

Margery C. Carlson Nature Preserve, LaSalle Co: Assembled information for article on Dr. Carlson and Big Bend area for Outdoor Highlights.

Joliet Junior College, Will Co: Discussed possibilities of nature preserve on their lands.

Coast Guard Prairie, Cook Co: Talked with Northbrook Park District about development plans.

Olin tract, Madison Co: Visited area; discussed dedication with DOC and with Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Committee; prepared revised plans and drafted articles of dedication.

Proctor Woods, DeKalb Co: Surveyed area; discussed preservation with owner.

Afton Cemetery Prairie, DeKalb Co: Surveyed area and began negotiations for dedication.

Paw Paw Creek Woods, Lee County: Surveyed area; discussed formation of Lee Co. Conservation District.

Robeson Hills Nature Preserve, Lawrence Co: Conferred with DOC and IDOT on development grant and dedication of additions to nature preserve; revised plan and legal description of addition to nature preserve.

12-mile Prairie, Fayette Co: Discussed acquisition and preservation with IDOT.

Rocky Branch, Clark Co: Continued negotiations on dedication; added 9-acre addition to dedication proposal.

Lindroth tract, Ogle Co: Conferred with owner concerning donation.

Eagle area, Rock Island County: Talked with Elton Fawks about possible dedication of area by National Wildlife Federation.

Cave Creek Hill Prairie, Johnson Co: Conference with owner.

PROJECT 4. RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Revised, duplicated and distributed endangered vertebrate list, reviewed other states rare and endangered species legislation for other states, investigated possibilities of grants to continue endangered species work, wrote article for Endangered Species Technical Bulletin; discussed with IDOT about their endangered species list, typed record cards for endangered plants.

PROJECT 5. MANAGEMENT

Sand Ridge Nature Preserve, Cook Co: Discussed brush removal with Cook County Forest Preserve personnel.

Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve, Cook Co: Approved removal of junk.

Beach Cemetery Prairie, Ogle Co: Posted nature preserve signs.

Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve, Mason Co: Surveyed prairie with DOC staff

Henry Alan Gleason Nature Preserve, Mason Co: Surveyed prairie with DOC staff

Reavis Prairie, Mason Co: Surveyed prairie with DOC staff.

Rock Cut State Park, Winnebago Co: Surveyed proposed route for road around Pierce Lake, Rock Cut State Park with DOC staff.

Fairchild Cemetery Prairie, Vermilion Co: Arranged for interim management and protection; began work on dedication.

Wildcat Bluff, Johnson Co: Conference with highway department about road closure in nature preserve.

Proposed prairie management leaflet: Discussed with DOC and NAI; drafted outline.

Rites for Charles¹⁰ Olmsted, U. of Chicago botanist, set

Chi. Trib. 11/24/76

SERVICES FOR Charles E. Olmsted, 68, retired University of Chicago botanist who ~~was~~ active in the fight to preserve the ~~Indiana Dunes~~ will be held Tuesday in Boulder, Colo.

Mr. Olmsted took part in many Midwest conservation battles before retiring from the university in 1973 and moving to Boulder, where he died Saturday. He formerly lived at 5641 S. Drexel Blvd.

Unlike many scientists who shied away from involvement in controversy, Dr. Olmsted took the stand at many public hearings to explain the scientific and ecological value of such land as the Goose Lake Prairie in Grundy County, Volo Bog in Lake County, and the Indiana Dunes, a fight he joined in 1962. He also supported efforts to protect Beall Woods in southeastern Illinois and

Grand Mere [Mich.] Nature Preserve.

He joined the University of Chicago faculty in 1934 and was appointed chairman of the Botany Department in 1953. He was chairman until the department was merged with the biology program in 1969. A leading plant ecologist, his work in photoperiodism—the response of plants to differing amounts of light—gave him a national reputation in the scientific community.

HE ALSO served as secretary of the Illinois State Natural Resources and Conservation Board, chairman of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, and adviser to the National Parks Service.

Survivors include his widow, Hazel; a son, Charles Jr.; and a daughter, Joanna.



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois/62764
Telephone 217/782-5597

INPC 61
Item 5-I

October 26, 1976

Mr. George B. Fell
Executive Secretary
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
819 North Main Street
Rockford, Illinois 61103

Dear Mr. Fell:

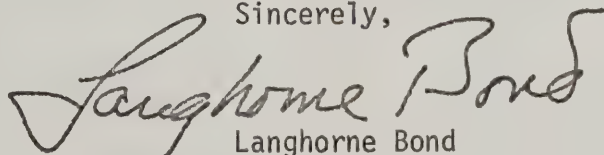
Thank you for your recent letter expressing the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission's opposition to the alignment of Supplemental Freeway 420.

I am sure you are aware the Department of Transportation has under consideration an alignment change similar to the one you recommended between the Volo and Brandenburg Bogs, which will lessen the impact of the freeway on them.

The Commission's opposition to the freeway and the recommended alignment has been noted and will be evaluated in further detail in future studies on the use of the land and in the final environmental impact statement.

Thank you for taking the time to write and expressing your views in this matter. We encourage public involvement in all phases of transportation planning.

Sincerely,


Langhorne Bond

IMC 6/
1/10/76

MAJOR STAFF ACTIVITIES

Natural Areas Section
Illinois Department of Conservation

October 1, 1976 to December 10, 1976

Public Relations and Information

Spoke to participants of First Central Hardwoods Forest Conference at S.I.U. on Natural Area programs in Illinois.

Guided Kaskaskia Chapter of Illinois Audubon Society on a tour of the 12 Mile Prairie in Marion County.

Gave program on endangered plants in Illinois to the Annual Conservation Conference of Garden Clubs of Illinois.

Gave presentation on the Nature Preserves system to the Mt. Vernon District Garden Club.

Provided interpretive service at the official opening of Moraine Hills State Park, McHenry County.

Advised the public of the availability of the Nature Preserves Directory through the Departmental newsletter.

Meetings Attended

Hosted and attended the Third Annual Midwest Natural Areas Workshop at the Conservation Training Center, Oglesby, IL (Bowles, Schwegman, Schanzle, West)

Central Hardwoods Forest Conference at S.I.U. (Schwegman, Bowles, West)

Nature Preserves Commission on Commission Staff Function in Normal, IL (Schwegman)

Illinois Technical Forestry Association in Des Plaines (Bowles)

Departmental Supervisory Staff Meeting at Horseshoe Lake (Schwegman, West)

Management

Presented training lectures to four groups of Department Site Superintendents on maintenance and management of Nature Preserves and Natural Areas (Schwegman, Schanzle)

Management (con't.)

Met with Site Superintendent of Horseshoe Lake Nature Preserve on management problems, posting and location of national natural landmark plaque.

Approved of revision in Amax Coal's mining plan for Beall Woods and their request for core drilling on our property.

Completed preparation of critical and notable features files for all Department-owned nature preserves.

Began work with local foresters on fire protection plans for Southern Illinois Nature Preserves.

Met with Ron Westemier of the Illinois Natural History Survey to discuss the department's role in management of the Prairie Chicken Sanctuary.

Established additional photo stations at Posen Woods and Chauncey Marsh.

Met with Corps of Engineers naturalist at Carlyle Lake to survey local Massassauga habitat.

Began treatment of exotic species (honeysuckle) at Fern Rocks Nature Preserve.

Continued discussions with Ronald Brandon pertaining to his request to collect Dusky Salamanders at Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve.

Met with YCC representatives to discuss future programs in Southern Illinois Nature Preserves.

Inventoried Sweet clover invasion at Reavis Nature Preserve.

Met with researchers at Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve to plan future research in the preserve.

Inventoried Mississippi kite habitat at Union County Refuge regarding possible habitat destruction.

Met with landowner at Kidd Lake Marsh to discuss land use changes.

Renovated the nature trail at Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak with the help of a local scout troop.

Attended on-site meeting concerning development of a handicapped trail at Moraine View State Park.

Assisted in layout of future nature trails at Hidden Springs State Forest.

Planning and Inventory

Worked on Master Management Plans for Rock Cut, Kankakee River, Chain O'Lakes, Horseshoe Lake (Madison), Giant City, and Fort de Chartres.

Provided input to U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services on data sheets on endangered plant species for Illinois.

Completed supplementary agreement to Natural Areas Inventory Project that allows Department to use a minicomputer for data storage and manipulation.

Met with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and determined policy on dedication of nature preserves on lands acquired with Pittman-Robertson fund assistance.

Met with Illinois Natural Areas Inventory staff to review results of the feasibility study for the Inventory's information handling system.

Provided natural areas input to the Ohio River Basin Commission for their Ohio Main Stem Level B Study.

Provided Corps of Engineers with preliminary natural areas inventory data for Madison County.

Commented on Ohio River Sand and Gravel Dredging Environmental impact statement.

Began development of an access control plan for Thomson-Fulton Sand Prairie and Mickelson's Landing.

Reviewed legislation for Illinois Coastal Zone Management.

Inventoried natural areas north of Shiloh Avenue at Illinois Beach State Park addition and met with the regional land manager and site planning to discuss possible future developments.

Conducted a field review of proposed dredging spoil sites along the Chain O'Lakes system.

Reviewed Illinois Beach hydrological study and made management recommendations.

Met with Southern Illinois Power Cooperative and negotiated commitments to protect natural area values along their proposed line from Renshaw to Elizabethtown. (Schwegman and West)

Acquisition, Dedication and Preservation

Obtained options on tracts 9, 13, 21, and 28 (14.6 acres) at Thorn Creek Woods.

Warrant has been requested for tract 5 (5 acres) at Volo Bog. This parcel joins the dedicated bog on the west.

Acquisition, Dedication, and Preservation (con't.)

A letter of committment to purchase the Massasauga Prairie was sent to the Nature Conservancy.

Completed dedication of Beall Woods Addition and Prospect Cemetery.
Coordinated Departmental review of Colored Sands Bluff dedication proposal.

Met with land owner and hydrologist from the State Water Survey on probable gravel mining impact on Spring Bay Bog. Revised take line.

Discussed Pecumsaugan Creek preservation with Commonwealth Edison.

Visited Sielbeck Tract with representative of the Nature Preserves Commission regarding preservation of the area.

DEDICATION OF A NATURE PRESERVE

ROCKY BRANCH

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the Eastern Illinois University Foundation, being the owner thereof does hereby dedicate the following described real property as a nature preserve:

Tract I. Commencing at the Southeast Corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section Thirty (30), thence West Fourteen (14) chains, thence North Fifteen and Forty-five One-hundredths (15-45/100) chains, thence South, Fifty-three (53) degrees and Seven (7) minutes East, Five (5) chains, thence East Ten (10) chains to the East line of said Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, thence South to the place of beginning, containing Seventeen and one-half (17½) acres, except herefrom One and one-half (1½) acres conveyed by Michael Madden and Honora Madden, his wife, to James A. Perry, by deed dated April 22, 1911, recorded in Book 80 of Deeds, Page 37 of the Records of Clark County, Illinois, leaving in the tract hereby conveyed, Sixteen (16) acres, all in Township Twelve (12) North, Range Twelve (12) West, Clark County, Illinois;

Tract II. Commencing at the Northwest Corner of the Southeast Quarter (SE-¼) of the Northwest Quarter (NW-¼) of Section Twenty-Nine (29), Township Twelve (12) North, Range Twelve (12) West, thence South forty (40) rods; thence East forty (40) rods, thence North forty rods; thence West forty (40) rods to the place of beginning, containing ten (10) acres, more or less; and also, an acre, more or less, lying South of Rocky Branch and West of the west line of the Northwest Quarter (NW-¼) of the Southwest Quarter (SW¼) of Section Twenty-Nine (29), Township Twelve (12) North, Range Twelve (12) West of the Second Principal Meridian, and lying east of the Township Road, Clark County, Illinois;

Tract III. All that part of the West ½ of the Northwest ¼ of the Southwest ¼ lying North of a branch running an easterly direction through the same, containing 6 acres; also 7 acres off the North end of the East ½ of the West ½ of the Southwest ¼, all in Section 29, Township 12 North, Range 12 West of the 2nd Principal Meridian, said description being intended and understood to convey all the above-described land which lies north of the branch at the foot of the bluff on said land and no more, making in all 13 acres, more or less, Clark County, Illinois, as shown by Plat thereof recorded in Deed Record 146 at Page 104A;

Tract IV. All that part of the following described real estate lying North of a line described as commencing at a point on the East line of the West ½ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 29, Township 12 North, Range 12 West of the 2nd P.M., 350 feet South of the Northeast corner of said West ½; thence South 50°-30' West 157 feet to an iron post "A₂"; thence South 74°-30' West 411 feet to an iron post "B₂"; thence South 53°-30' West 346 feet to an iron post "C₂"; thence North 86°-30' West 500 feet to an iron post "D₂"; a point on the West line of the West ½ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 29, 665 feet South of the Northwest corner of said West ½, to wit:

Fourteen (14) acres, more or less, off of the South end of the West ½ of the Northwest ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 29, the Northern line of said Fourteen (14) acres being the center of a certain road now traveled by the public running through said land substantially East and West along a branch known as "Rocky Branch"; the East ½ of the Northwest ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 29, except seven (7) acres off of the North end thereof, being that part lying North of the branch and the foot of the bluff", and containing in the tract hereby conveyed 5.1

acres, more or less, in Section 29, Township 12 North, Range 12 West of the 2nd P.M., Clark County, Illinois, as shown by Plat thereof recorded in Deed Record 146 at Page 107A;
Tract V. Commencing at a point on the West line of the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, Township 12 North, Range 12 West of the 2nd P.M., at an iron post located 350 feet South of the Northwest Corner thereof; thence North $60^{\circ}-34'$ East 408 feet to an iron post; thence North $42^{\circ}-49'$ East 243 feet to an iron post on the North line of said Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29; thence West 540 feet to the Northwest Corner thereof; thence South 350 feet to the place of beginning, containing in all 2.54 acres, more or less, Clark County, Illinois, as shown by Plat thereof recorded in Deed Record 146 at Page 105A;

Tract VI. The Southwest Quarter (SW- $\frac{1}{4}$) of the Southeast Quarter (SE- $\frac{1}{4}$) of the Northwest Quarter (NW- $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Twenty-Nine (29), Township Twelve (12) North, Range Twelve (12) West, containing ten (10) acres, Clark County, Illinois;

Tract VII. Commencing at a point on South line of Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 29, Township 12 North, Range 12 West of 2nd P.M., 1068 feet West of Southeast Corner of said Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 29; thence North $3^{\circ}-33'$ West 205 feet to point M; thence North $24^{\circ}-22'$ West 792.4 feet to point L; thence North $2^{\circ}-31'$ West 429.7 feet to point K; thence North $16^{\circ}-49'$ West 315.7 feet to point J; thence North $1^{\circ}-59'$ East 358.4 feet to point H; thence South $75^{\circ}-25'$ East 378.8 feet to point G; thence South $78^{\circ}-30'$ East 217.5 feet to point F; thence North $77^{\circ}-21'$ East 288.5 feet to point E; thence North $56^{\circ}-21'$ East 253.3 feet to point D, a point lying in County Road; thence along the center line of the road to the North line of Section 29; thence West along said Section line to center line creek; thence meandering South and West along center line of creek to West line of Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 29; thence South to center of Section 29; thence East to place of beginning, containing 67.3 acres; and also, a tract described the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, Township 12 North, Range 12 West of 2nd P.M., 10 acres, more or less, containing in all 77.3 acres, more or less, Clark County, Illinois, as shown by Plat thereof recorded in Deed Record 146 at Page 106A;

Tract VIII. All that part of the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, Township 12 North, Range 12 West, lying on the South side of the center line of the West Fork of Big Creek in Douglas Township, containing 6 acres, more or less, Clark County, Illinois.

The property hereinabove described is dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in "An Act in relation to the acquisition, control, maintenance, improvement and protection of State parks and nature preserves", approved June 26, 1925, as heretofore amended and "An Act relating to the creation of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and defining its powers and duties", approved August 28, 1963, as heretofore amended. Said property is further dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in any amendment to said Acts enacted hereafter, but no such amendment shall alter the exclusive commitment of said land to the preservation of natural conditions for the purposes specified in said Acts as of the date of this dedication. However, a building and shelter

for scientific research purposes and a parking area may be constructed on an area of the west one-half of Tract III and that portion of Tract II lying in Section 30, located at the entrance adjacent to the public road.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this _____ day of _____, 19____.

APPROVED:

Governor

APPROVED:

(Owner)

Attest:

Director, Department of
Conservation

APPROVED:

Chairman, Illinois Nature Preserves
Commission

Attest:

Secretary, Illinois Nature Preserves
Commission

ADDITION TO DEDICATION OF PROPOSED ROCKY BRANCH NATURE PRESERVE

Tract IX. All that part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 29, Township 12 North, Range 12 West of the 2nd Principal Meridian, lying South of the centerline of the West Fork of Big Creek, in Douglas Township, Clark County, Illinois, containing 9 acres, more or less.

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS 61920

October 26, 1976

Mr. Richard Thom
Field Representative
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
819 North Main Street
Rockford, IL 61103

Dear Mr. Thom:

In conjunction with the possible dedication of the Rocky Branch property as a Nature Preserve, I note the following:

1. We are in the process of obtaining and reviewing a proposed warranty deed from the Nature Conservancy on the additional nine-acre tract which is now available.
2. If a decision is made to acquire this piece of property, we would want to include it in our consideration of the dedication proposal.
3. On page 3 the proposed dedication document which you provided earlier reads, ". . . for scientific research purposes and a parking area may be constructed on an area of the west one-half of Tract III and that portion of Tract II lying in Section 30, located at the entrance adjacent to the public road "

Our attorney advises that the language will need to read as follows to be consistent with our warranty deed: ". . . for scientific research purposes may be constructed on an area of Tract III not to exceed one acre, located at the entrance to the public road "

4. The paragraph you provided, as stated below, is fine for inclusion in the proposal to be considered:

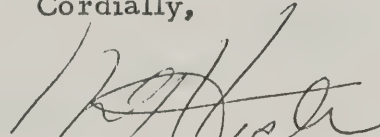
Nothing in this dedication agreement shall be construed as requiring the Eastern Illinois University Foundation or Eastern Illinois University or their assigns to incur any expenses regarding said property without their consent.

I will keep you advised of our progress. We should have some idea concerning our acquisition of the additional nine acres at a meeting of the Foundation

Mr. Richard Thom
Page 2
October 26, 1976

Board on November 17. When that matter is determined, a final dedication agreement can be considered. The question of dedication will be considered generally at the November 17 meeting.

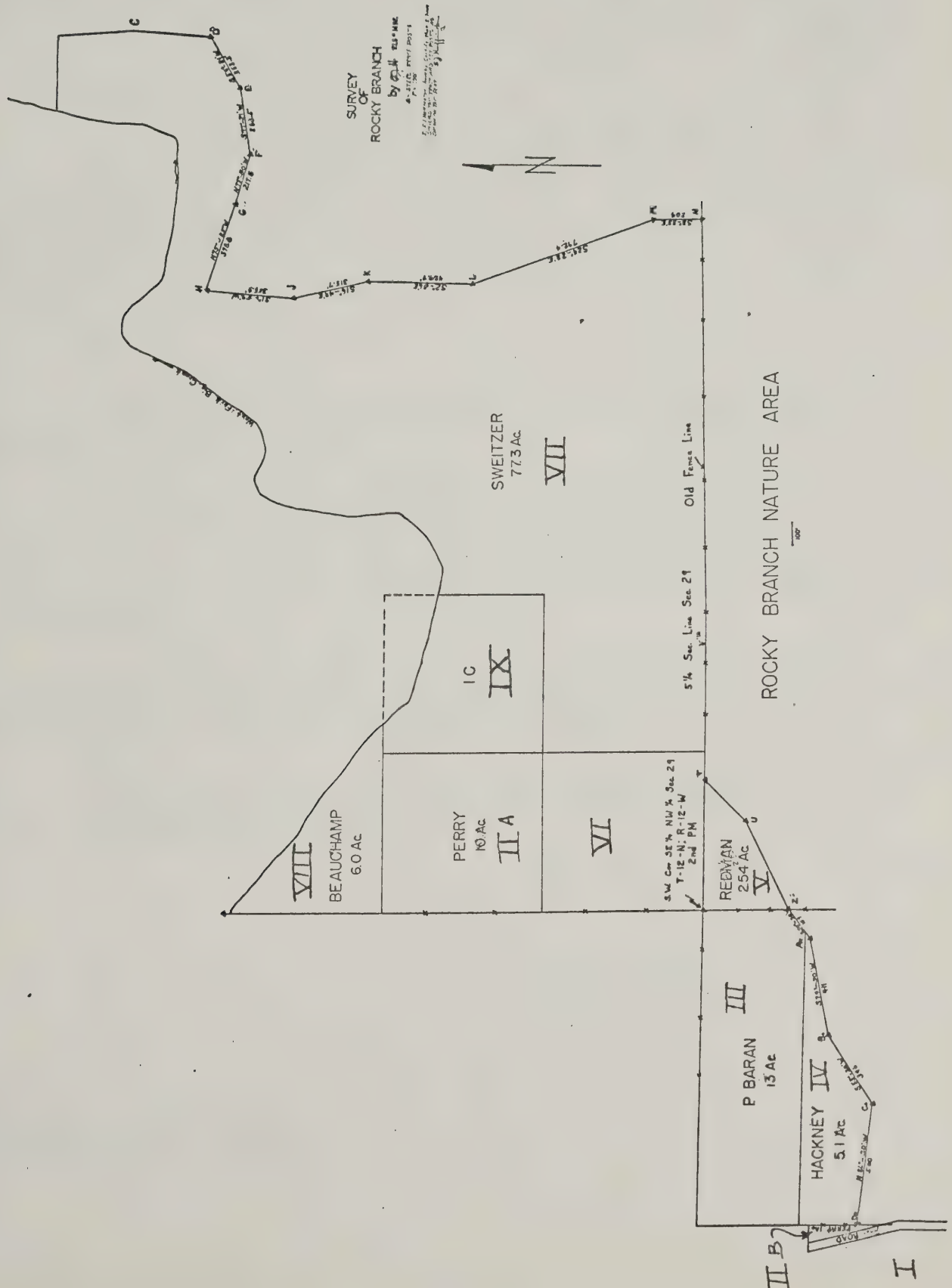
Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth E. Hesler', written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth E. Hesler
Executive Director

ew

cc: Mrs. Betty Ronchetti, President
Mr. Ogden Brainard, Attorney



Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

819 NORTH MAIN STREET
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61103
815/964-6666



INPC 61
Item 16

October 29, 1976

Senator Charles H. Percy
Room 1200
Dirkson Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Senator Percy:

We understand that you are looking into the proposal to build a large marina/convention complex on Lake Michigan within Illinois Beach State Park near Zion, Illinois.

The Nature Preserves Commission is very much concerned about this proposal because of the potential for severe adverse impact on natural areas in the proposed marina site and in other parts of Illinois Beach State Park. The proposal also raises serious questions concerning alternative public recreational uses of this priceless stretch of lakeshore and concerning the problem of lakeshore erosion.

The Illinois Department of Conservation has initiated a study of the feasibility and environmental impact of a marina in the park. We feel it is very important that this study be completed and evaluated before anything else is done concerning construction of a marina.

We urge you to wait until information on environmental effect, safety, engineering feasibility and cost of the marina is available before you make any commitments concerning it.

Sincerely,

George B. Fell
Executive Secretary

GBF:gc
Copy to:
Chicago office of Senator Percy
John McGuire
BCC : Steve Packard, IEC

JOHN L. MCCLELLAN, ARIZ.
HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.
EDMUND S. MUSKIE, MAINE
LEE METCALF, MONT.
JAMES B. ALLEN, ALA.
LAWTON CHILES, FLA.
SAM NUNN, GA.
JOHN GLENN, OHIO

CHARLES H. PERCY, ILL.
JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.
WILLIAM V. ROTH, JR., DEL.
BILL BROCK, TENN.
LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR., CONN.

United States Senate

RICHARD A. WEGMAN
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 15, 1976

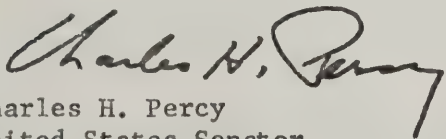
Mr. George B. Fell
Executive Secretary
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
819 North Main Street
Rockford, Illinois 61103

Dear Mr. Fell:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed Zion marina.

The city has asked me to support the project. However, I feel that it would be unfair to take a position before the various government agency reports are completed. Therefore, you can be assured that the environmental impact of the project will be considered.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Percy
United States Senator

CHP:v

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Richard Thom, Field Representative
December, 1976

PROPOSAL FOR DEDICATION OF THE OLIN TRACT
MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

INPC 61
Item 17

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In 1969, John M. Olin of Alton donated 293 acres of land northwest of Alton to the Illinois Department of Conservation. In 1976 this land was conveyed to the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University for the use of the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville campus. The bill that authorized the transfer of this property contained a provision that the area must be maintained in its natural state or it shall revert to the Department of Conservation.

The Olin tract contains steep limestone bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, sink holes, ravines, bedrock outcrops, small streams, a waterfall, upland forest, and loess hill prairie representative of the Glaciated Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division. The sheltered ravine forests provide potential winter roost sites for bald eagles, and eagles are known to use the area. The most outstanding natural features are the river bluffs, the waterfall, and the hill prairie.

In 1976 John Olin also donated a 33-acre parcel containing a mansion which the University will use as the John M. Olin Conference and Cultural Center. This parcel lies adjacent to the Olin tract at its southeast edge.

A University committee to recommend possible uses of the Olin tract, is considering the dedication of suitable portions. In 1971 the Nature Preserves Commission approved in principle such a dedication (Resolution 183). It is recommended that 223 acres be dedicated as an Illinois nature preserve, and an additional 20 acres be dedicated as buffer.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Olin tract is located at the western edge of the city of Alton (population 39,700) and 25 miles north of St. Louis, Missouri (population 750,000) and overlooks the Mississippi River. Illinois' Great River Road runs between the Mississippi River and the property along the southwest boundary of the area. Illinois Route 100 and Levis Lane are within one-half mile of the property's northern boundary. The principal access points are from Levis Lane from the north and from the Fairmont Subdivision on the southeast. Access could also be developed from the Great River Road.

The property is located in Sections 3 and 4, Township 5 North, Range 10 West of the 3rd Principal Meridian, Madison County, Illinois, Alton USGS Topographic Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series.

CHARACTER OF AREA

General

Dry to mesic upland forest on loess covers most of the proposed nature preserve. Ridges, gentle slopes, and steep ravines and hollows characterize the topography of the land lying behind the bluffs which rise as high as 175 feet above the level of the river. Several small streams, one with a waterfall, flow through the area. A small hill prairie occurs atop the bluffs.

Geology and topography

The area is underlain by thick limestones of the Mississippian System. Salem limestone crops out in the lower slopes of the river bluffs. Limestone of the St. Louis Formation, about 200 feet thick in this area, occurs on the middle and upper slopes of the bluffs and also underlies surficial deposits of the uplands. This bedrock is often very near the surface and is exposed along the streams where riffles, pools, and a small waterfall have formed.

Northeast of the river bluffs, the deeply dissected uplands form ravines and hollows with virtually every direction of exposure. Broad, gently sloping ridges separate some of the ravines. The southwestern exposure of the blufftops creates favorable conditions for the development of hill prairie vegetation. A sinkhole plain occurs on the Olin tract just outside the proposed nature preserve, but no large sinkholes occur within the proposed boundaries.

Elevation ranges from about 400 feet at the base of the bluffs to about 630 feet on some of the ridges.

Soils

The soils are derived from loess and limestone bedrock. The depth of the loess varies from a few inches to more than seven feet. The Alford and Fayette Soils Series predominate. These soils occupy moderately steep to very steep slopes and narrow ridge tops. Erosion is a severe hazard to these soils.

Excessively well-drained soils occupy ridge tops on the bluffs with southwesterly exposures. Alluvial soils occur along the lower reaches of the streams.

Vegetation

Deciduous forest covers over 90% of the proposed preserve. Dry upland forest occurs on the ridges and bluff tops and grades from dry to mesic on the slopes and along the streams. Bedrock bluffs and outcrops create special plant

habitats. A small hill prairie occurs on the river bluff. Some of the more level uplands have been used as hayfields and are now undergoing secondary succession.

The forest is mostly young to mature second growth with the largest trees occupying the lower slopes and bottoms of the ravines. Scattered old second growth trees occur in some of the ravines. The forest has a high diversity of tree species. The dry and dry mesic woods are dominated by post oak (Quercus stellata), black oak (Quercus velutina), white oak (Quercus alba), chinquapin oak (Quercus muhlenbergii) and hickory (Carya sp) with other species occurring with lesser frequency.

The mesic woods contain white oak, red oak (Quercus rubra), chinquapin oak, sugar maple (Acer saccharum), hickory, ash (Fraxinus sp.) and hackberry (Celtis occidentalis). The dominant trees in these woods range from 12" to 25" d.b.h. with scattered individual trees that are much larger.

Along the creeks and ravine bottoms the forests are composed of cottonwood (Populus deltoides), silver maple (Acer saccharinum), American elm (Ulmus americana), hackberry, pin oak (Quercus palustris), black walnut (Juglans nigra) and ash.

The woodlands have a rich herbaceous flora and most of the species characteristic of these types of woods are probably present. Ginseng (Panax quinquefolius) is one of the uncommon plants growing in the proposed preserve. A graduate student from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville is currently studying the flora of the Olin tract.

A hill prairie of exceptionally high natural quality dominated by little bluestem (Andropogon scoparius) and side oats grama (Bouteloua curtipendula) occurs on a southwest facing loess bluff in the southwest corner of the proposed preserve. Although it is only about one-tenth acre, the Natural Areas Inventory found 43 species of forbs, the most common of which are purple coneflower (Echinacea pallida), bluets (Houstonia nigricans), gray goldenrod (Solidago nemoralis), sky-blue aster (Aster azureus), grooved yellow flax (Linum sulcatum), and purple prairie clover (Petalostemum purpureum). Other species present are blazing stars (Liatris aspera and L. cylindracea), prickly pear (Opuntia compressa), false foxglove (Gerardia skinneriana), hoary puccoon (Lithospermum canescens), scurf pea (Psoralea tenuiflora), silky aster (Aster sericeus) and aromatic aster (Aster oblongifolius).

The prairie has been reduced in size by the planting of pines and is being further encroached upon by invading native vegetation such as smooth and aromatic sumac. A small area adjacent to the prairie had been mowed until last year. The native grasses responded dramatically to cessation of mowing so that now the area is dominated by big bluestem (Andropogon gerardii), little bluestem, and Indiangrass (Sorghastrum nutans).

Fauna

There is little information on the fauna of the Olin tract, but the diversity of habitats and the size of this area can be expected to support a large and diverse fauna. Pileated woodpeckers are seen throughout the summer and no doubt nest in the area. Bald eagles use the area as a winter roost, but the extent of this use is unknown. The physiography of the area, with its many sheltered ravines, appears to make it an ideal alternate roost site. Even though this area may not be heavily used now, it could be important in the future if other suitable roost habitat along this stretch of the Mississippi River is altered or destroyed.

The bedrock outcrops, rocky ravines, and bluffs probably harbor interesting and uncommon species of reptiles and amphibians, and the invertebrates characteristic of clear, rocky streams of this natural division can be expected to be found.

Use and disturbance

Before being donated to the State in 1969, the Olin tract was a private estate and was managed as a park with large mowed fields and groves. Only a small acreage of these mowed areas is included in the proposed nature preserve, but about 18 acres of mowed field and a small orchard have been recommended as buffer. About 15 acres of abandoned fields lie within the northwest portion of the proposed preserve. An abandoned limestone quarry along the river bluffs known as the Blue Pool is recommended as buffer.

Several unimproved roads and an unimproved road pass through the proposed preserve. The unimproved roads will be closed to traffic and, where feasible, incorporated into the trail system. Continued use of the improved road will be provided for in the articles of dedication and the master plan.

Several exotic plant species occur. Black locust and a few pine trees have been planted along the blufftops. Japanese honeysuckle grows in patches throughout the area. The groundskeepers have removed old and diseased trees along the roads and fields, and have cleared the undergrowth from several small areas near the roads. The forests have been logged and are second growth in various stages of maturity.

The close proximity to the city of Alton has made the property accessible to visitors, but the area is not in much danger from disturbance due to urbanization. The exclusive subdivision of Fairmount serves as buffer on the southeast; the Great River Road and Mississippi protect the southwest; relatively large estates border the north edge; and a steep ravine protects the west side from development. Only on the northeast side has suburban development reached the boundary of the proposed preserve.

MANAGEMENT

The nature preserve would be managed by Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. There are presently two groundspeople employed full time on the Olin tract and the Olin mansion. Although much of their work involves maintenance of the buildings, they also spend considerable time clearing brush, cutting trees, and mowing the large expanses of lawn. Some of the time that they presently devote to grounds maintenance could be directed to nature preserve management. After the initial management effort, the nature preserve will likely require far less time from the groundspeople than they are presently spending in this area, providing a savings to the University.

Management would consist of cessation of mowing and brush clearing within the preserve; removal of a few pines from the hill prairie; removal of the black locust, Japanese honeysuckle, and other exotics where they occur; and design and layout of a trail system. The hill prairie should be managed to control invading woody vegetation. It may be desirable to fence some of the northeast boundary in the vicinity of the subdivision.

The University will probably not encourage public visitation to the nature preserve, but will probably allow public access by permission.

NATURE PRESERVE VALUES

The entire 293-acre Olin tract was given to the University with the provision that it be maintained in its natural state. The proposed nature preserve contains those areas of highest natural quality which are particularly suited for inclusion within the Illinois nature preserves system. Dedication of the 223 acres will provide assurance that the wishes of John Olin and the provisions of the law will be fulfilled.

The Olin tract offers numerous possibilities for scientific research and environmental education. Deborah Thompson, a graduate student from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, is currently doing a thesis study of the vascular flora of the property. Randy Nyboer of the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory studied and reported on the hill prairie. Under the aegis of the University, the nature preserve could become an important research area.

The undedicated portion of the tract on the northwest side of the property could be developed into a multiple use education-recreation area consistent with the continued preservation of its natural values. Some of the possibilities for use include the development of a biological field station or outdoor/environmental education center; forestry, agricultural, biological, horticultural, or geological research projects; and use as a retreat or conference area. Many of these uses would add to the importance of the adjacent nature preserve as the scientific and educational use of the preserve increases.

The 33-acre tract with the mansion will become the John M. Olin Cultural and Conference Center. The Center will draw visitors who will be interested in the adjacent nature preserve. Since the preservation of our

natural heritage is an important cultural effort, a dedicated Illinois nature preserve would be harmonious with the purposes of the Center.

In addition to Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, several other colleges and universities are located within the St. Louis-Alton area. The Olin tract would be the only Illinois nature preserve in the vicinity of these institutions.

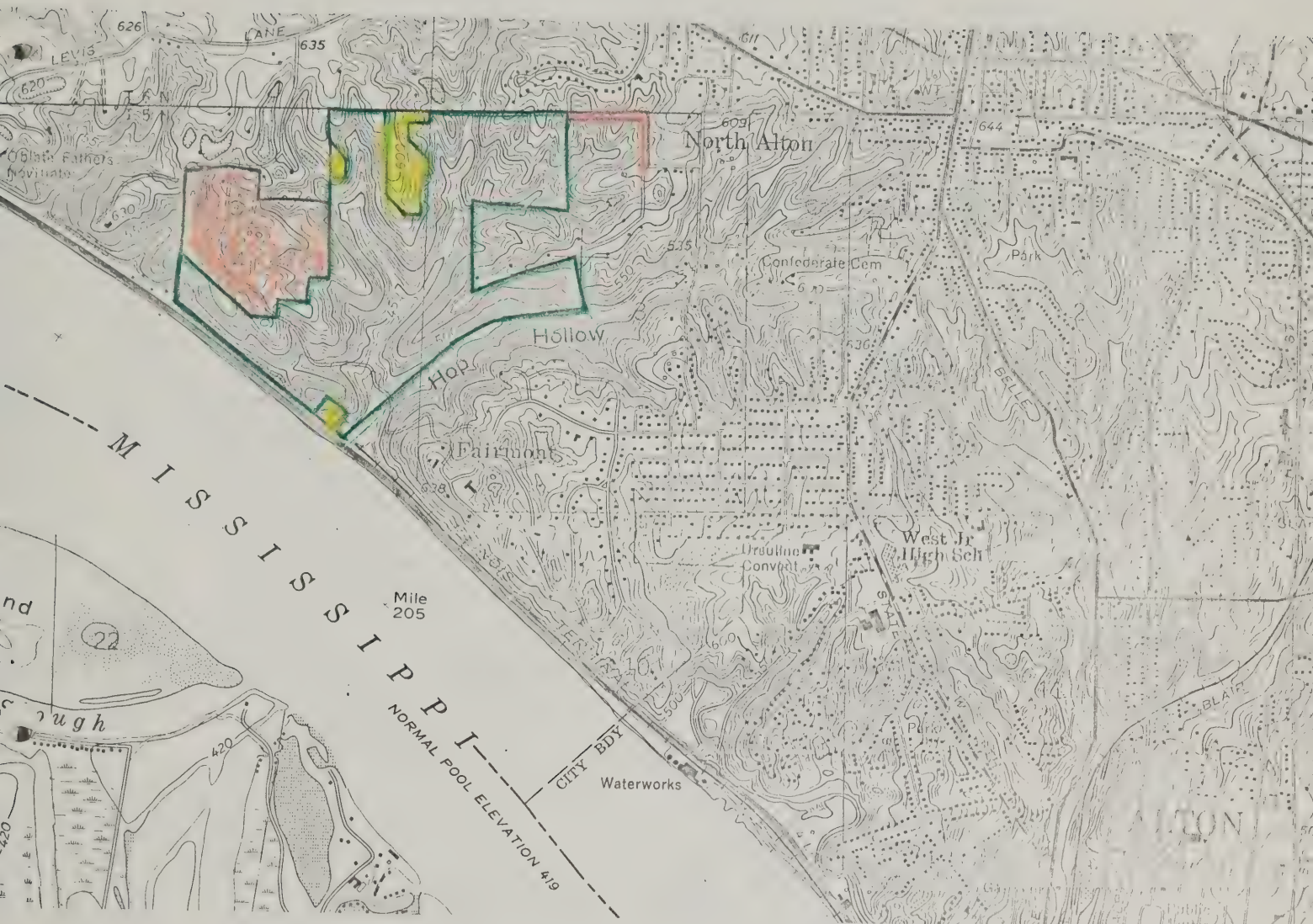
The importance of the Olin tract as endangered species habitat cannot be fully assessed without further floral and faunal inventory of the area. The preserve seemingly provides good winter roost habitat for the endangered bald eagle.

The Olin tract contains river bluffs, deciduous forest, hill prairie, and ravine topography characteristic of the Glaciated Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division. Only two other nature preserves, Cedar Glen and Mississippi Sand Hills, represent some of these features from this natural division. These nature preserves are both in Hancock County, some 140 miles north of the Olin tract.

REFERENCES

- Baxter, James W, 1965. Limestone Resources of Madison County, Illinois. Circular 390. Illinois State Geological Survey, Urbana.
- Ryboer, Randy. Letter to Richard Thom dated November 30, 1976 reporting on Illinois Natural Areas Inventory survey of hill prairie in Olin tract.
- Schwegman, John, 1971. Report on the Olin tract, Madison County (unpublished), Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Rockford.
- Southwestern Illinois Planning Commission, 1970. General Soils Information and Interpretation, Madison County, Illinois. SIPC, Collinsville.
- William, H. B. and John C. Frye. 1970. Pleistocene Stratigraphy of Illinois. Bulletin 94. Illinois State Geological Survey, Urbana.

PROPOSED NATURE PRESERVE AND VICINITY MAP OLIN TRACT, MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS



LEGEND



PROPOSED NATURE PRESERVE
223 acres



PROPOSED BUFFER
20 acres



PROPOSED TO REMAIN UNDEDICATED
50 acres

LOCATION MAP OLIN TRACT, MADISON COUNTY



KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University, being the owner thereof does hereby dedicate the following described real property as a nature preserve:

Parts of Sections 3 and 4, Township 5 North, Range 10 West of the Third Principal Meridian described as follows: Beginning at a stone in the Northwest corner of Section 3, thence South $89^{\circ} 45'$ East along the North line of said Section, 1687.3 feet to a point on the North line of said Section 3; thence South 1313.42 feet to the North line of "Mullen Ridge Sub-Division"; thence South $86^{\circ} 44'$ West along said line 1237.22 feet to the Easterly line of Lot 6 in said Sub-Division; thence South along said line 877.6 feet to the Northwest corner in Lot 7 of said Sub-Division; thence easterly along the Northerly line of Lots 7, 8, 9, and 10, 1320 feet to the East line of Lot 10 in said Sub-Division; thence Southerly along said line 782.4 feet to the South line of said Lot 10; thence Westerly along the South line of Lot 7, 8, 9, and 10, 1338 feet, more or less, to the intersection with the Northwesterly line of Fairmount Sub-Division; thence Southwesterly along said line 1338.1 feet; thence Southwesterly 949 feet, more or less, to the intersection with the Northeasterly right-of-way line of Illinois Terminal Railroad said point being 441 feet Northwesterly from the corner nearest the Mississippi River of Lot 11 in Fairmount Addition; thence Northwesterly along said right-of-way line a distance of 100 feet; thence Northeasterly 325 feet along a line that is perpendicular to the last described course; thence Northwesterly 450 feet along a line that is perpendicular to the last described course, thence Southwesterly 325 feet along a line that is perpendicular to the last described course to a point along the Northeasterly right-of-way line of Illinois Terminal Railroad; thence Northwesterly along said right-of-way line to the intersection with the West line of the Northeast Quarter of Section 4; thence North $0^{\circ} 48'$ West, 675 feet to a point on the West line of the Northeast Quarter of Section 4; thence Southeasterly 1125 feet along a line parallel to the said Northeasterly right-of-way line of Illinois Terminal Railroad; thence East 400 feet; thence North 400 feet; thence East 400 feet; thence Northerly to the intersection of the South line of the North Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 4 and the West line of a tract of land conveyed to John M. Olin by deed recorded in Book 16, page 18 of the records in the Recorder's Office in Madison County, Illinois, 800 feet more or less; thence North 600 feet along said line; thence east 325 feet; thence North 150 feet; thence North 45° West to a point on the West line of a tract of land conveyed to John M. Olin by deed recorded in Book 16, page 18 of the records in the Recorder's Office in Madison County, Illinois, 459.6 feet; thence North along said line to the intersection of the North line of the Northeast Quarter of Section 4, 280.64 feet; thence Easterly along said line 775 feet; thence South 1,200 feet; thence South 45° East 282.9 feet; thence East 350 feet; thence North 475 feet; thence East 50 feet; thence North 125 feet; thence North 45° West 525 feet; thence East to the West line of the Northwest Quarter of Section 3, 371.23 feet; thence North along said line to the point of beginning, 204 feet, more or less, containing 223 acres, more or less; all situated in the County of Madison and State of Illinois.

The property hereinabove described is dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in "An Act in relation to the acquisition, control, maintenance, improvement and protection of State parks and nature preserves", approved June 26, 1925, as heretofore amended and "An Act relating to the creation of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and defining its powers and duties", approved August 28, 1963, as heretofore amended. Said property is further dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in any amendment to said Acts enacted hereafter, but no such amendment shall alter the exclusive commitment of said land to the preservation of natural conditions for the purposes specified in said Acts as of the date of this dedication.

The hard-surfaced roads situated within 1000 feet of the Southwesterly boundary of the above described tract on the date of this dedication, including the land within 25 feet of the centerline of said roads, may be maintained and used for road purposes as provided for in the master plan.

The following described real property lying adjacent to the nature preserve herein dedicated is dedicated as, and shall be held as, buffer area for the protection of the nature preserve. Said buffer area may be developed, managed, or used for public conservation, recreation or service purposes as may be approved by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Department of Conservation or shall be managed as if it were part of the nature preserve herein dedicated.

Parcel 1. Commencing at the intersection of the South line of the North Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 4 and the West line of a tract of land conveyed to John M. Olin by deed recorded in Book 16, page 18 of the records in the Recorder's Office in Madison County, Illinois; thence North 600 feet along said Olin tract West line to the point of beginning; thence East 325 feet; thence North 150 feet; thence North 45° West 459.6 feet to a point on said Olin tract West line; thence South along said Olin tract West line 475 feet to the point of beginning, containing 2.3 acres, more or less.

Parcel 2. Commencing at the intersection of the South line of the North Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 4 and the West line of a tract of land conveyed to John M. Olin by deed recorded in Book 16, page 18 of the records in the Recorder's Office in Madison County, Illinois; thence North along said line 1355.64 feet to the North line of the Northeast Quarter of Section 4; thence Easterly along said line 775 feet to the point of beginning; thence South 1200 feet; thence South 45° East 282.9 feet; thence East 350 feet; thence North 475 feet; thence East 50 feet; thence North 125 feet; thence North 45° West 525 feet; thence North 225 feet; thence East to the West line of the Northwest Quarter of Section 3, 371.23 feet; thence North along said line to a

stone at the Northwest corner of Section 3, 204 feet, more or less; thence Westerly along the North line of Section 4, 600 feet more or less to the point of beginning; containing 14.6 acres, more or less.

Parcel 3. Commencing at the intersection of the Northwesterly line of the Fairmount Sub-Division and the Northeasterly right-of-way line of the Illinois Terminal Railroad said point being 441 feet Northwesterly from the corner nearest the Mississippi River of Lot 11 in Fairmount Addition; thence Northwesterly along said right-of-way line a distance of 100 feet to the point of beginning; thence Northeasterly 325 feet along a line that is perpendicular to the last described course; thence Northwesterly 450 feet along a line that is perpendicular to the last described course, thence Southwesterly 325 feet along a line that is perpendicular to the last described course to a point along the Northeasterly right-of-way line of Illinois Terminal Railroad; thence Southeasterly along said right-of-way line 450 feet to the point of beginning, containing 3.4 acres, more or less.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this

_____ day of _____, 19____.

APPROVED:

Governor

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SOUTHERN
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

APPROVED:

By: _____
Chairman

Director, Department of
Conservation

Attest:

APPROVED:

Chairman, Illinois Nature Preserves
Commission

Attest:

Secretary, Illinois Nature Preserves
Commission



Southern Illinois
University at Carbondale
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

INPC 61
Item 18

Department of Zoology
618-536-2314

October 20, 1976

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
819 North Main Street
Rockford, Illinois 61103

Dear Sirs:

I understand from Mr. K. Andrew West, Natural Areas Biologist for the Illinois Department of Conservation, that you would be interested in a statement from me telling why I feel it important to collect two additional samples of the salamander Desmognathus fuscus from the Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve, rather than from some other locality.

These salamanders live in headwater habitats where, because of ecological restriction and resultant low level of gene flow between populations, adaptation to local conditions may be pronounced, especially at the edge of the species' range. For these reasons sampling, with the intent of studying populational parameters known to vary from population to population, must be done as compactly as possible. Samples of animals from other populations could not reliably be mixed with those from Chestnut Hills. This significant variable could confound the results and preclude meaningful interpretation.

Were we to begin sampling anew, at another locality, samples already on hand from Chestnut Hills would have little value.

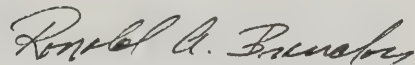
The fact is, I know of no other population large enough in area and dense enough for us to use. We know of one quite dense population in a spring run near Mounds, but the spring is surrounded by so little suitable habitat that I would rather see that site obtained for protection. That population is surely on the brink of extirpation through habitat destruction, and collection of large populational samples could have a significantly negative impact.

Other populations we have found seem quite small, being restricted to small patches of uncultivated ravines containing small streams already silted nearly to the point of unsuitability. Some localities are represented in our collections by one or two specimens, one by a single larva. Our practice in these cases has been to collect one or two

specimens to document the site and then move on to the next likely looking spot.

Outside of the Chestnut Hills ravines the Dusky Salamander is nearly extirpated from Illinois, where it never had a very large range in the first place, by land clearing and stream siltation. Relatively undisturbed habitat is extensive in the Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve and population density and recruitment are high there. Few populations even in the Appalachian Plateau seem as healthy as these. If anyone is ever to study, in Illinois populations, the populational parameters outlined in my application it will have to be done in the Chestnut Hills; only there can adequate samples be obtained.

Sincerely yours,



Ronald A. Brandon
Professor

jm

cc Mr. K. Andrew West
Dr. James E. Huheey

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
PROVISIONAL DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY,
ETHOLOGY, AND EVOLUTION

Vivarium
Healey and Wright Streets
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 333-1631

October 14, 1976

Dr. George B. Fell
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
819 North Main Street
Rockford, Illinois 61103

Dear George:

I have received all the correspondence and reports that I have concerning the request of Ronald Brandon for the collection of 200 specimens of dusky salamanders at the Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve.

I recommend that the request be approved.

Andy West's statement (June 14, 1976) that he found a sizeable number of animals in a small area where 200 specimens were removed two years previously would indicate that the species could readily recover in population size.

If it is true that only 12 per cent of the population is available superficially for collection, this conforms with my earlier advice that not more than about 10 per cent be collected during any one year (letter of Nov. 26, 1975).

West suggests (Sept. 22, 1976) that collecting be restricted to one ravine system. I recommend that collecting be divided between ravines 3, 4, and 5 in your recent map and that some proportion (one out of three or four) specimens found not be collected to insure that the population is not depleted in any ravine. I further suggest that Brandon or West recensus the areas of collection one or two years afterwards so that any area where, by chance, there has not been adequate recovery could be restocked with breeding individuals from other nearby areas.

Very truly yours,

Charles

S. Charles Kendeigh
Professor Emeritus of Zoology

ds

CRIMINAL OF
REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION
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DEAN JOHN C. GUYON



ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Natural Resources Building
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Telephone: 333-6880
Area Code 217

Section of Faunistic Surveys
& Insect Identification

GEORGE SPRUGEL, JR., *Chief*

October 7, 1976

George B. Fell
Executive Secretary
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
819 North Main Street
Rockford, Illinois 61103

Dear George:

Your letter of 6 October in connection with the permit Ron Brandon has requested along with the two attachments are at hand. I find Andrew West's memo and the results of his salamander census persuasive enough that I would support Ron's request to collect the 200 specimens in one of the two best ravines. Dr. Brandon's point that he is the most knowledgeable person about southern Illinois salamanders is without a doubt true and, in his own words, he is a "conservative collector."

It speaks well for the Commission that some of its members are apprehensive about over-collecting the relatively small population. They certainly should not be apologetic about doing their job well. I too hope some guidelines for considering collecting permits result from the Brandon experience.

Yours sincerely,

Philip W. Smith
Taxonomist and
Head of Section

PWS/clk

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

819 NORTH MAIN STREET
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61103
815/964-6666



INPC 61
Item 19

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission members
FROM: Staff
DATE: December 2, 1976
SUBJECT: Staff recommendations, Middle Fork of the Vermilion River

Governor-elect Jim Thompson has expressed his opposition to construction of the Middle Fork Reservoir and has suggested the possibility of public sale of part of the land acquired by the State Division of Water Resources in the reservoir area while retaining some of the land for conservation and recreation purposes.

The Nature Preserves Commission has identified several natural areas in the Middle Fork valley, including four areas that are suitable for dedication as nature preserves (Windfall Prairie, Horseshoe Bottom, Orchid Hill, and Middle Fork Woods). Two of the potential nature preserves, Windfall Prairie and Horseshoe Bottom, and two other natural areas, Indian Grass Prairie and Kickapoo Woods, are located on Division of Water Resources lands. The other natural areas are owned either by the Department of Conservation, Central Illinois Power Company or Vermilion County Conservation District.

The Commission has received several requests from citizens urging it to identify those areas that are worthy of preservation and dedication and to endeavor to secure their permanent preservation at this time (see attached letter from Dr. Clark Bullard).

Besides the identified natural areas, the Commission has expressed its concern in the past for preservation of the high quality aquatic habitat of the Middle Fork River, protection of populations of the highly vulnerable bluebreast darter and other rare and restricted species, and protection of significant archaeological features of the Middle Fork valley. (Resolution 398)

Other potential conservation and recreation values of the lands in the Middle Fork valley have not been identified by the Commission, although these values may be important.

The staff proposes that the Commission give Windfall Prairie and Horseshoe Bottom preliminary approval for dedication (approximate legal descriptions attached) and recommend retention of Indian Grass Prairie and Kickapoo Woods, together with surrounding buffer lands in public ownership. Also the staff proposes that the Commission participate with the Department of Conservation in identifying those lands in the reservoir area that should be retained in public ownership, including lands with natural area values, buffer areas, areas with significant archaeological features, and areas needed to protect the aquatic habitat of the river, and that the Commission urge Governor-elect Thompson to take necessary action to secure the permanent preservation of these areas.

MIDDLE FORK OF THE VERMILION RIVER, VERMILION COUNTY

Approximate legal description of areas proposed for preliminary approval of dedication owned by the State of Illinois, Division of Water Resources:

Windfall Prairie: Approximately 15 acres

Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 20 North, Range 12 West of the 2nd Principal Meridian; and all that part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 8 lying easterly of the centerline of the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River, all in Vermilion County, Illinois.

Horseshoe Bottom: Approximately 50 acres

Part of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; part of the north half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 31, Township 21 North, Range 12 West of the 2nd Principal Meridian and the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter and the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 36, Township 21 North, Range 13 West, lying easterly of the centerline of the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River, all in Vermilion County, Illinois.

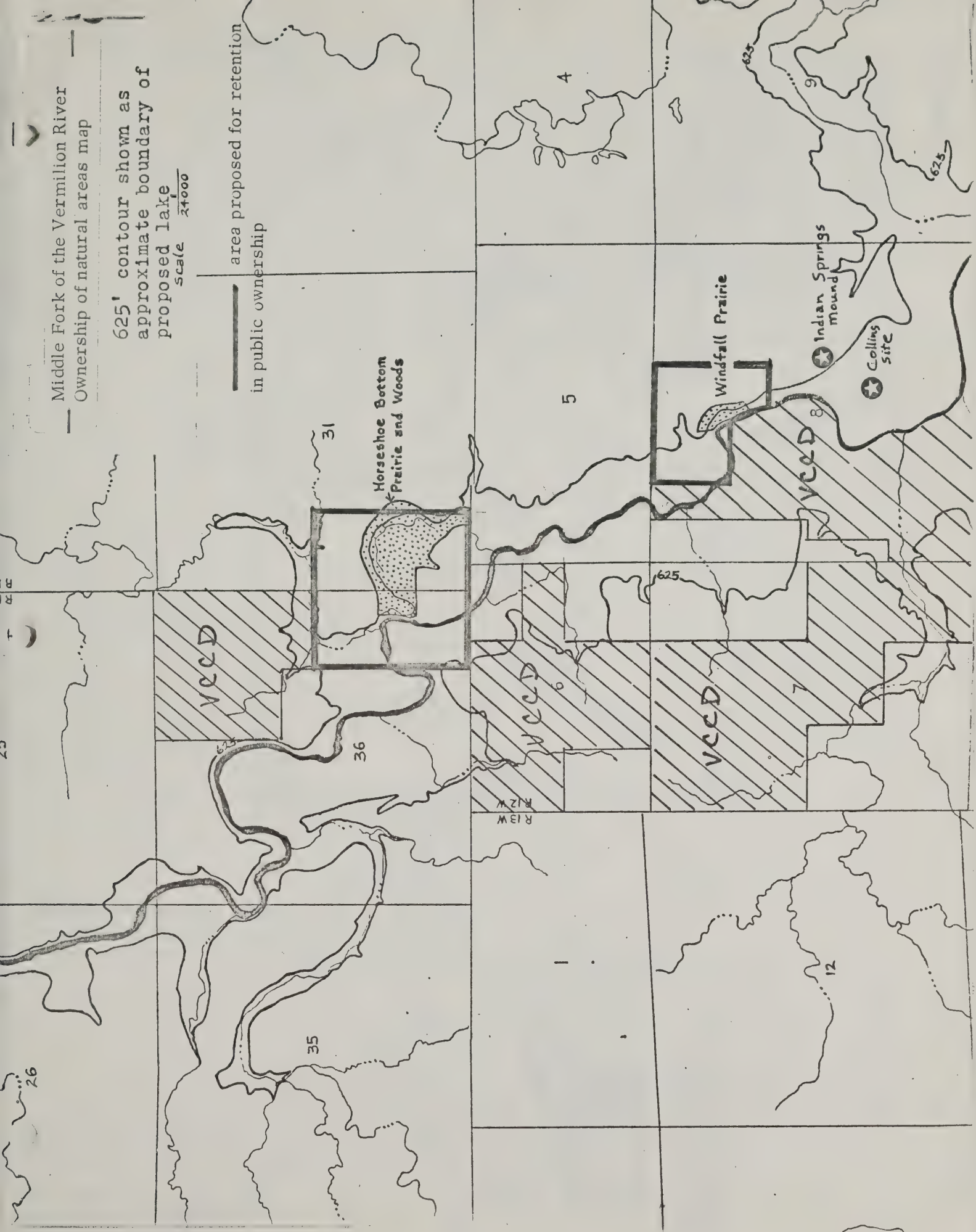
December 2, 1976

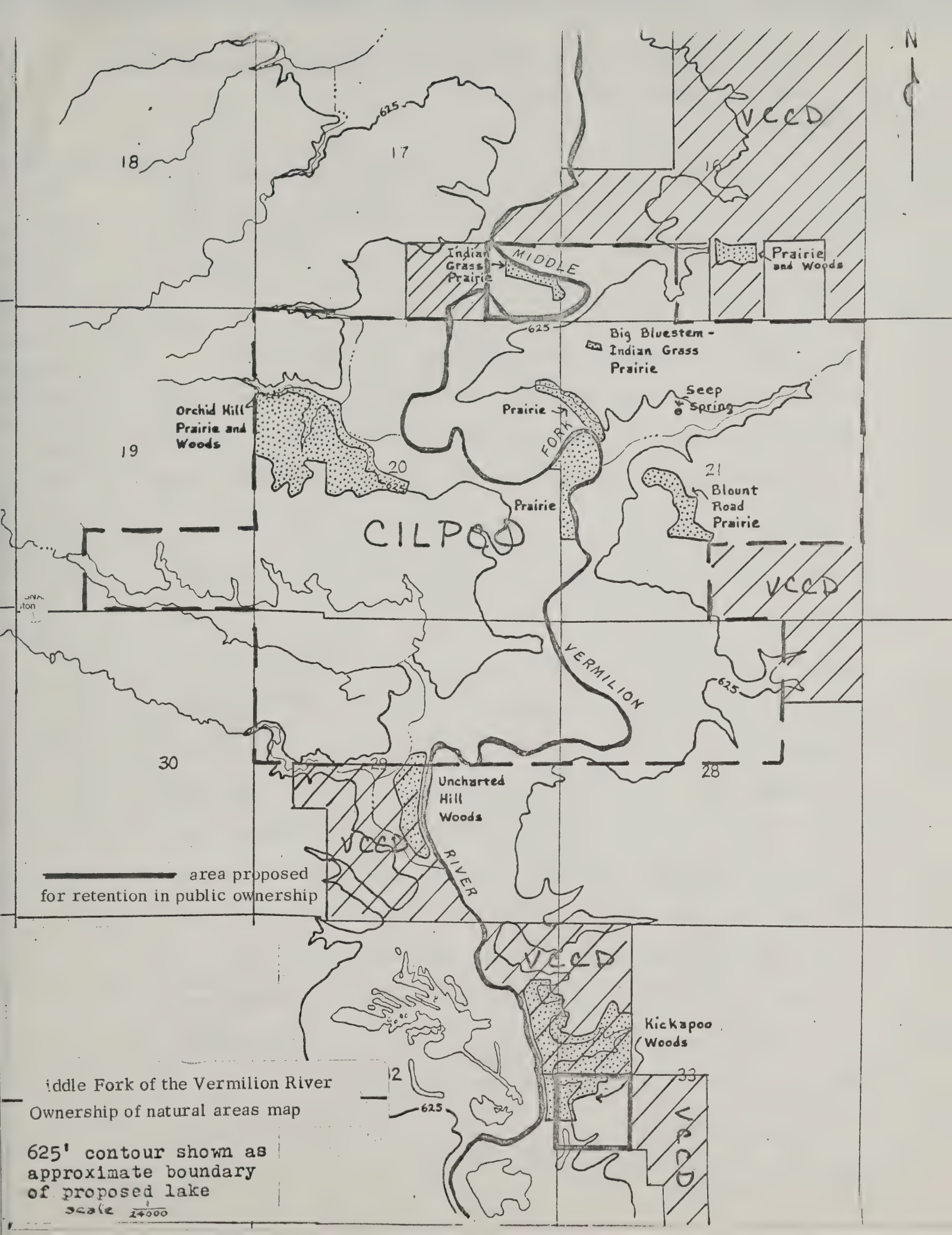
Middle Fork of the Vermilion River
Ownership of natural areas map

625' contour shown as
approximate boundary of
proposed lake

Scale 24000

area proposed for retention
in public ownership





The Committee on the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River

117 W. FOURTEENTH STREET

DANVILLE, ILLINOIS 61832

11-9-76

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Dr. Dale Birkenholz, Chmn
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
819 N. Main
Rockford IL 61103

Sir:

As you probably know, Governor Thompson has expressed his opposition to the Middle Fork Reservoir project. As the enclosed clipping indicates, he also favors resale of some state lands, and additional land acquisition to expand Kickapoo Park.

Hopefully, he will sell prime farmland; not the potential Nature Preserves your agency has identified. However, political pressures to sell back all the land could be intense.

Therefore it is necessary that the importance of these potential Nature Preserves be underscored. I understand your agency has the power to do it, by giving your "conditional approval" to dedicating those areas already on state land. By delineating exact boundaries now before resale becomes a political football, you can ~~assure~~ make it easy for Mr. Thompson to make a final decision based on objective professional analysis. If you wait until after the first of the year to start drawing boundaries, we may find ourselves embroiled in more controversy.

I hope you can act promptly on this matter.

Sincerely

Clark Bullard

cc. George Fell

The Commercial News, Danville, Ill., Saturday, Oct. 16, 1970

Thompson Seeks Alternatives To Middlefork

The State of Illinois wouldn't be able to pay for the Middlefork Reservoir soon enough for the project to help the Danville area out of its water and recreation woes, Jim Thompson told The Commercial News Friday.

On the state, county and city should work together to find permanent alternatives to the long-sought project, the Republican candidate for governor said.

"There are some things I think we can do as alternatives to the Middlefork Reservoir," he said. "The first obligation of state government comes next — to start doing it," he said.

His suggestions include expanding Middlefork State Park, doing more studies of other water supply sources — and selling back some Middlefork Reservoir lands to pay for other recreation opportunities.

Thompson's comments, in a breakfast interview with members of The City editorial board and a

representative of the governor and I'm willing to make that because of what past administrations have done to you," he added.

"The governors in the past and the general assemblies in the past have done things to lead people to believe that action was going to be taken and they now have decided to reverse that process."

—Jim Thompson

reclamation of strip-mined land in this area.

"I think that between a combination of action by the county conservation district and the powers of the state Department of Conservation, and through a combination of actions involving state purchase and sale on the open market, we can achieve additional recreation facilities in this area," he said.

"And the people of Vermillion County cannot only achieve open spaces but can get most of their money back."

"Now this will take a special com-

presented to the City of Danville in 1974.

He said the report suggested more detailed engineering work to determine the feasibility of the various alternatives. But in response to a question, Thompson said he wouldn't change his mind on the Middlefork even if the study he commissioned showed that the Middlefork was the most feasible.

"If Meisenheimer (the consulting firm) comes back and says that the Middlefork is the most feasible, then I think we have to go to the second most feasible," he said.

"And it will be the responsibility of the state to help out Danville to get that second most feasible alternative water supply and be more generous than they would for other cities in view of their past commitment."

"I think that's the fair way to work it out."

Thompson lashed out at what he

called his opponent's unrealistic promise to build the reservoir.

"I can't understand how Howlett (Mike Howlett, the Democratic candidate) can promise the people of this district the reservoir in view of the Legislature's refusal to approve the funding."

"And what particularly offends me is Howlett coming out and saying he will start construction of the reservoir in 1977 and then his press secretary coming along and saying, 'Well, Mike meant if there's full funding and if there's a reform in the Department of Public Aid and if this and if that'."

"Now that's bullshit. Either Howlett's going to be the governor making promises or Reynolds (the press secretary) is going to be the governor making promises."

"Which are you going to rely on?" he asked. "That's just not the way to campaign."

"My 'No' may hurt. I'm sure it does. But at least it's an honest, upfront 'No' that you can build on."

"You cannot build on Howlett's promises, not when he's got his press secretary coming along with all the ifs."

Would any of the cost-cutting he promises create money that could build the Middlefork? Thompson was asked.

"I hope it saves money, I don't know that it will, and the savings may have to go to other priorities," Thompson said, noting that he had just proposed an upgrading of the criminal justice system that would require funding.

Schools, transportation, and economic efforts would have to be considered as primary recipients of any extra cash, he added.

"I can't make the promise that a more efficient executive branch of government would produce more money for the reservoir," Thompson said.

"I think that would be misleading, you if I said that and I don't want to mislead you."

2. Agricultural

Approximately 45% or 6,575.0 acres of the 14,610.12 acres included within the boundaries of the Middle Fork reservoir project was, prior to 1969, used for some aspect of conventional agriculture, i.e.: row crops, wheat, or pasture. To date, 2,999.67 acres of these agricultural lands have been purchased by the various agencies involved with the reservoir project. Much of this land continues to be farmed through a lease-back arrangement. These lands, which are no longer cropped, are either being developed for recreation or are in various stages of old field succession.

Natural Areas

The Middle Fork Valley presents a wide diversity of natural areas, from prairies to upland forest to bottomland forest to wetlands. In all, the seventeen areas that qualify as natural (See Figure II-16) encompass approximately 550 acres. Each of these areas is discussed in detail below.

Forested Areas

1. Horseshoe Bottom

- Division of Waterways

(Size: 50 acres)

Location: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31, T21N, R12W, and east part of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 36, T21N, R13W.

Description: Horseshoe Bottom consists of a semicircular flood plain ringed by steep bluffs and an upland promontory along the river. There is a great diversity of forest communities represented including spring-fed sloughs, flood plain, terraces, and dry upland woods on west-facing river bluffs. Spring-fed sloughs range from sites of semi-permanent ponds with swamp white

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oak, willows, pin oak and buttonbush to wooded seepages with black ash and marsh marigold. The sloughs intergrade into low flood plain communities with green ash and soft maple. Terrace communities display great diversity with slight changes of drainage resulting in a mixture of dry upland forest species, such as black oak and white oak, with mesic forest species, such as sugar maple and red oak. Other species present include walnut, black cherry, shagbark hickory, and bur oak. The bluffs around the flood plain support a dry upland forest of chinkapin oak, white oak, black oak, and scattered red cedar with an understory of little bluestem. Seepages occur locally along the bluff resulting in more mesic sites with red oak and sugar maple.

Significance: The significance of the area lies in the great diversity of the tract and the representation of unusual features, including spring-fed sloughs and mesic forest trees along the low terraces. Black ash is known from only one other site along the Middle Fork, and pin oak is known only from this site. Many old growth trees occur within the tract. It does appear to have been subjected to partial logging for one species, such as walnut. (No large walnut were noted although many immature trees are present.)

2. Kickapoo Woods - Division of Waterways
(Size: 15 acres)

Location: NW $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33; and E $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, T20N, R12W.

Description: Kickapoo Woods consists of a wooded ravine and river bluff adjacent to a small flood plain on the east side of the Middle Fork River.

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The ravine supports a mesic forest community of red oak, sugar maple and a few American beech. The river bluff is forested with a dry upland forest of chinkapin oak and white oak. Flood plain vegetation includes box elder, green ash, silver maple, and cottonwood.

Significance: For a small tract, Kickapoo Woods displays a large diversity of forest vegetation, having flood plain, river bluff, and ravine slopes with northern and southern exposure. American beech is present near the limits of its range.

3. Middle Fork Woods - Dept. of Conservation.
(Size: 100 acres)

Location: In the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5, T19W, R12W, and the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, T20N, R12W.

Description: Middle Fork Woods includes wooded steep slopes along the west bank of the Middle Fork, poorly drained flat uplands, and several ravines, the largest containing an intermittent stream which drains directly into the Middle Fork. At the mouth of the ravine, shale with abundant fossils outcrops occur along the Middle Fork where it undercuts its banks. Sandstone outcrops in the form of low cliffs in the southwest corner of this tract. Upland sites are variable but generally mesic in character. Where drainage is good, white oak, red oak and sugar maple grow with an understory of sugar maple and black haw. The ground cover includes a number of spring ephemerals, lady fern, and broad beech fern. Shagbark hickory, pignut hickory, and black oak are present with an understory of black haw, and arrow wood on the more poorly drained sites. Large stands of sensitive fern and open areas with sedges and wood reed grass also are found on these

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sites. Swamp white oak occurs in the wettest sites in ephemeral ponds. The largest ravine, rich and diverse, has dominant trees which include red oak and sugar maple on lower slopes, black and white oak and an occasional American beech on upper slopes, and American elm and sycamore along the stream. Notable herbaceous plants present include squirrel corn, green violet, Gleason's trillium, firepink, and squawroot. The east-facing bluffs along the Middle Fork have white oak, chinkapin oak and red oak common in the overstory. Small seep springs occur along the bluff and natural soil sloping is apparent. Wild sarsaparilla (Aralia nudicaulis) occurs as a glacial period relic on a north-facing section of the sandstone bluff. The salamander Ambystoma platineum has been collected at this site, its only known location in Illinois. It apparently breeds in the ephemeral ponds in the upland woods.

Significance: This is the largest, most diverse and most valuable forested natural area on the Middle Fork. Although the flat upland forests are second growth and were grazed, they are significant due to the unusual mixture of plant species present and the occurrence of the salamander. The tract contains the only known sandstone outcrops in the Vermilion River drainage that contain relic northern vegetation; this is a more typical feature of the Southern Uplands Section of the Wabash Border Natural Division. The old growth conditions of portions of ravines and slope forests combined with the diversity and number of uncommon plants at these sites make the tract a high quality natural area.

4. Middle Fork River Bluff - Dept. of Conservation in part
(Size: 30 acres)

Location: The N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, T19N, R12W.

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Description: This wooded tract is composed of a flat upland ridge adjacent to the steep north-facing bluff on the Middle Fork. The bluff reaches a height of 80 feet with slopes up to 25%. A few seep springs occur along the base of the bluff. Shale outcrops along the base of the hill are due to stream erosion. Upland sites are characteristically black oak and white oak with occasional sugar maple, red oak, black cherry, white ash, flowering dogwood, ironwood, and arrow wood. As the ridge becomes more narrow, a mesic black oak community predominates with lousewort, shooting star, and pussytoes common in the understory. The north-facing slope is mesic with common woody species of sugar maple, red oak, basswood, flowering dogwood, bladdernut, wild hydrangea and buckeye. Honeysuckle, running strawberry bush, Gleason's trillium, snow trillium, squaw-root and several species of fern are present.

Significance: The entire tract is second growth; however, the understory is in natural condition. The high steep river bluff is of geological significance. In addition, several uncommon plants such as Gleason's trillium, snow trillium and squaw-root are present and add significance to the site. The presence of the Middle Fork River at the base of the bluff adds diversity to the tract.

5. Old Growth White Oak Stand - Dept. of Conservation
(Size: 10 acres)

Location: In the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, T19N, R12W.

Description: This stand consists of a wooded river bluff on the old west bank of the Middle Fork River (now rerouted by strip mining). White oak is the dominant tree with occasional red oak, hickory, and sugar maple. Bladdernut is a common shrub, and wild leek, cream violet and wild ginger are common herbaceous vegetation.

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Significance: Although small, this tract is significant in that a small stand of undisturbed, old growth white oak occurs on the upper slopes of the bluff.

6. River Bluff and Ravines - Dept. of Conservation
(Size: 40 acres)

Location: In the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17, Section 8, T19N, R12W.

Description: The area consists of a steep, wooded river bluff of the Middle Fork River (now rerouted due to strip mining) which faces northeast. On either side of the bluff are small, steep-walled, narrow ravines with drainage into the Middle Fork. The river bluff has a red oak-sugar maple overstory with occasional black cherry, white oak, basswood, buckeye and flowering dogwood. The ground cover is rich in spring ephemerals including squirrel corn, hepatica firepink and Christmas fern. The side ravines have essentially the same characteristics and additionally have intermittent streams and yellow lady slipper orchids on the steepest slopes. A xeric community with black oak, stunted white oak, lousewort, shooting star, spiderwort, pussytoes, star grass, and twayblad orchid is represented on ravine crests with western, southern and eastern exposure.

Significance: The ravines and bluffs are second growth communities but are otherwise undisturbed and qualify as natural area due to their diverse rich flora and number of uncommon plants, including lady's slipper orchid and firepink. This is the second known Middle Fork station for the yellow lady slipper, but it is rare with only a few plants present. The base of the river has been disturbed by strip mining, and one side of the ravine has its lower reaches periodically flooded due to blocked drainage.

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Areas Characterized by Prairie Vegetation

7. Windfall Prairie - Division of Waterways (Size: 30 acres)

Location: Center of north half of Section 8, T20N, R12W.

Description: Along a steep to very steep bluff of the Middle Fork is a prairie with scattered trees, shrubs, and small wooded ravines. The lower portion of the bank is a nearly-vertical face of glacial drift which rises 10 to 20 feet above the stream for the length of the prairie. It supports spring and prairie vegetation with caps of spring tufa around the springs. The prairie community has side-oats grama, little bluestem, Indian grass, flowering spurge, purple coneflower, Indian paint brush, rosinweed, prairie dock, white sweet clover (a scattered but common naturalized species), dogbane, yellow puccoon, purple prairie clover, coreopsis, and black-eyed susan. The trees, which are dense in the ravines and occur as scattered, stunted individuals on the prairie, include red cedar, red oak, chinkapin oak, and hophornbeam. Solomon's seal and Dutchman's breeches are common in the thickets. The lush and varied vegetation of the seep spring includes horsetails, bulrush, columbine, whorled loosestrife, thoroughwort, spikemoss, blazing stars, prairie dock, and grass-of-Parnassus. There are active deposits of spring tufa in the seepage area, and thick, old tufa deposits on nearby ledges. The flatwoods above the prairie has scattered large white oak among smaller white oak, shingle oak, black oak, and shagbark hickory, with patches of feverfew and prairie dock. Red cedar and native honeysuckle are common along the border between the woods and the prairie, and the wooded slopes next to the prairie have sugar maple, basswood, oaks, hickories, and hophornbeam and witch-hazel. Table II-16 presents species collected at this location.

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FOR STUDY PURPOSES ONLY

TABLE II - 16

FLORA LIST - WINDFALL PRAIRIE a/

Scientific Binomial	Common Name
<u>Silphium terebinthinaceum</u>	Prairie dock
<u>Castilleja coccinea</u>	Indian paintbrush
<u>Lithospermum canescens</u>	Pucoon
<u>Phlox pilosa</u>	Common phlox
<u>Pedicularis canadensis</u>	Lousewort
<u>Pedicularis lanceolata</u>	Swamp lousewort
<u>Comandra umbellata</u>	Bastard toad flax
<u>Hypoxis hirsuta</u>	Star grass
<u>Krigia biflora</u>	False Dandelion
<u>Convolvulus spithameus</u>	
<u>Penstemon spp.</u>	Beardstongue
<u>Cacalia tuberosa</u>	Indian plantain
<u>Senecio aureus</u>	Ragwort
<u>Lonicera prolifera</u>	Honeysuckle
<u>Mentha piperita</u>	Mint
<u>Polygonatum biflorum</u>	Solomon's seal
<u>Sisyrinchium albidum</u>	Blue eyed grass
<u>Amorpha canescens</u>	Lead plant
<u>Ceanothus americanus</u>	Red root
<u>Lobelia spicata</u>	
<u>Hypericum perforatum</u>	St. John's Wort
<u>Euphorbia corollata</u>	Flowering spurge
<u>Petalostemum purpureum</u>	Purple prairie clover
<u>Asclepias tuberosa</u>	Butterfly Weed
<u>Lysimachia quadriflora</u>	Loosetrife
<u>Cassia fasciculata</u>	Partridge Peg
<u>Pycnanthemum pilosum</u>	Mountain Mint
<u>Anemone virginiana</u>	Common Anemone
<u>Echinacea pallida</u>	Pale Coneflower
<u>Sorghastrum nutans</u>	Indian grass

a/ This list is a composite of observations by Vermilion County Conservation District, Department of Conservation and Illinois Natural History Survey (See Appendix F for further detail).

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(Continued)

TABLE II - 16
FLORA LIST-WINDFALL PRAIRIE

Continued

Scientific Binomial	Common Name
<u>Andropogon scoparius</u>	Broom Sedge
<u>Juniperus virginiana</u>	Red cedar
<u>Parthenium integrifolium</u>	American Feverfew
<u>Melilotus alba</u>	
<u>Apocynum cannabinum</u>	Dog bane
<u>Rudbeckia serotina</u>	
<u>Liatris pycnostachya</u>	Blazing Star
<u>Liatris cylindracea</u>	Blazing Star
<u>Liatris aspera</u>	Blazing Star
<u>Parnassia glauca</u>	Grass of Parnassus
<u>Angelica atropurpurea</u>	Angelico
<u>Desmodium canadense</u>	Beggars Tick
<u>Desmodium cuspidatum</u>	Beggars Tick
<u>Bouteloua curtipendula</u>	Side oats grama
<u>Equisetum spp.</u>	Horsetail
<u>Andropogon gerardi</u>	Big Blue stem
<u>Asclepias verticillata</u>	
<u>Gerardia tenuifolia</u>	Gerardia
<u>Aster praealtus</u>	Aster
<u>Lactuca spp.</u>	
<u>Euonymus obovatus</u>	Running strawberry bush
<u>Spiranthes magnicamporum</u>	Ladies tresses
<u>Lespedeza capitata</u>	Bush clover
<u>Cirsium muticum</u>	Swamp thistle
<u>Gentiana quinquefolia</u>	Stiff gentian
<u>Aster azureus</u>	Aster
<u>Solidago rigida</u>	Goldenrod
<u>Coreopsis tripteris</u>	Tickseed
<u>Aster laevis</u>	Aster

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Significance: This prairie, with its seep spring, is one of the most outstanding natural areas on the Middle Fork River. In addition to the extensive, undisturbed prairie, it includes the following notable geological features. The river bank has very good exposures of glacial till and outwash, and the seep spring has large tufa deposits with some rare travertine and stalactitic deposits. The tufa has an excellent assortment of recent plant and animal fossils. Windfall Prairie is unique to both the immediate area and the state. Its similarity to other hill prairies in the state is slight (See Appendix F). This dissimilarity adds to the overall importance of this area.

8. Indian Grass Prairie

- Division of Waterways

(Size: 12 acres)

Location: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17, T20N, R12W.

Description: This is a fairly large prairie remnant occurring on a well-drained, sandy and gravelly terrace along the Middle Fork. A dense stand of Indian grass is the dominant feature of the prairie, with switch grass and little bluestem also present. Indian paint brush has been noted here. Although low in species diversity, it is the largest and best known example of a prairie on the flood plains of the Vermilion River Drainage.

Significance: This is one of two known bottomland prairies occurring in the Vermilion River watershed. Because of this, the prairie is of interest in spite of the low diversity of prairie species. The limited number of species may be due to periodic inundation and deposition of soil materials by the river. The prairie does not appear to have been disturbed by plowing.

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9. Bottomland Prairie and Eroding Bluff - CILPCO

(Size: 25 acres)

Location: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 21, T20N, R12W.

Description: The area consists of floodplain adjacent to the west side of the Middle Fork, and a 100-foot tall, nearly vertical, bluff adjacent to the east side of the river, the rate of natural erosion of the glacial drift in the bluff is such that red cedars, hophornbeam, smooth sumac, and young cottonwoods and willows are some of the few trees that are able to persist in large numbers on the slopes. The sod of prairie grasses and the spreading roots of red cedar are the most effective in holding the soil, but these plants too gradually creep downslope. Above the eroding slope is a flat upland, with scattered open-grown oaks whose crowns are nearly as broad as tall. Little bluestem is the commonest grass in the open, savannah-type environment and the prairie ladies tresses orchid is present. The floodplain to the west of the river supports a rich but partially disturbed prairie. Numerous prairie and lowland riverbank species are present and include Indian grass, switch grass, tall brome, nodding rye, little bluestem, yellow cone-flower, stiff gentian, cup plant, indigo bush, tall anemone, sunflower, penstemon, tall goldenrod, tall coreopsis, and scouring rush. The prairie has been disturbed by trash dumping and woody invasion due to the lack of fire. Weedy species present include Kentucky bluegrass, sweet clover, wafer ash, prickly ash, cottonwood, American elm, and sycamore.

Significance: The tract displays prairie vegetation occurring at ecological extremes, with steep eroding bluff habitat contrasted against a moist fertile lowland site. The river bluff is in an undisturbed condition; although

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the lowland has been disturbed it is the most diverse and largest prairie community of its type occurring on the Middle Fork. The river adds diversity to the tract while being an important factor in the presence and character of the communities.

Aquatic Areas

10. Collison Creek Marsh - Vermilion Co. Conserv. Dist. (VCCD)

(Size: 20 acres)

Location: N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 35, T12N, R13W.

Description: Collison Creek Marsh consists of a spring-fed, open cattail marsh adjacent to a flood plain woods with a small natural pond. A fence line runs between the marsh and woods. The species diversity of the marsh is not high; however, swamp honey locust, a tree thought to be restricted to more southern regions in Illinois, has been reported from the site. No specimens of the tree have been preserved, and its occurrence here cannot be verified. Therefore, it must be assumed this species does not exist at this location. The marsh is fed by an artesian well with 69.5 feet of two-inch well casing. A report from the Illinois Geological Survey, Urbana, concerning this well is located in Appendix G.

Significance: The significant natural feature of Collison Creek Marsh is the open pond in the flood plain woods and the possible occurrence of swamp honey locust. The evidence does not indicate that the open spring-fed marsh represents natural conditions.

11. Seep Spring - CILPCO

(Size: About 50 feet in diameter.)

Location: North part of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 21, T20N, R12W.

Description: A raised mound of spring-fed muck soils with many typical

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seep spring plants. The spring area is open with large spreading willows, cattails, and some cordgrass. Notable vegetation includes swamp lousewort, marsh fern, spikemoss, grass-of-parnassus, and mosses such as Thuidium, Mnium, and Fissidens.

Significance: Due to varying rates of permeability among layers of glacial drift, seep springs are common along the Middle Fork River and its tributaries. Many of the seeps have been ruined by pasturing, leaving the one identified here significant due to its size, its diverse vegetation, and the fact that it has not been ruined by grazing.

12. Spring-fed Cattail Marsh - CILPCO

(Size: 4 acres)

Location: The N $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, T20N, R12W.

Description: The tract consists of an open marsh dominated by cattails and bordered on the south and west by seepages which support a typical seep spring community. Vegetation includes swamp lousewort, marsh marigold, turtlehead, boneset, sensitive fern, giant water dock, willow-herb, bog goldenrod, black ash and bog twayblade orchid. Wood reed grass and Scirpus atrovirens are common.

Significance: This tract is important because of the large and diverse seepage communities. Black ash is known from one other station on the Middle Fork, and bog twayblade orchid is known only at this Middle Fork station. Vermilion County represents a southern extension of this orchid's range in eastern Illinois and adjacent Indiana. The marsh is bordered on the north by a lime settling basin and has had its natural quality altered by levee construction and manipulation of water levels.

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13. Skunk Cabbage Seep Spring - VCCD in part

(Size: 2 acres)

Location: Center of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 7, T20N, R12W.

Description: A narrow line of seep springs is located at the base of a north facing bluff. Most of the springs are in shaded habitat and support a typical wet forest flora. Turks' Cap Lily (Lilium Michiganense) and Skunk Cabbage (Symplocarpus foetidus) grow in the shaded springs. One section of the spring supports a sedge meadow in an area where the site is not shaded by overstory trees.

Significance: This is the only site in the Middle Fork Valley where Skunk Cabbage and Turks' Cap Lily have been observed. The latter occurs throughout the state but is not common. Skunk Cabbage is normally restricted in occurrence to northern Illinois where it is usually found only in cold springs. It is uncommon but not rare. The site has been disturbed in the past (by grazing) and lacks many of the plants of other Middle Fork springs (i.e. - Grass of Parnassus, Marsh Lousewort, Marsh Ferne, and Turtle Head). Its significance lies in the presence of Skunk Cabbage. It is not of nature preserve quality.

Areas Represented by a Mixture of Communities

14. Orchid Hill - CILPCO

(Size: 52 acres)

Location: Middle of west $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 20, T20N, R12W.

Description: The area includes a flat upland and steep slope west of the Middle Fork bottom. It is known for its seep springs and unusual abundance of orchids. The area is somewhat similar to Windfall Prairie because of its topography and the presence of seep springs, but the slopes of Orchid

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Hill are more mesic because they face northeast as opposed to southwest, and they rise above a partly-forested bottomland instead of being directly on the river. The upland is a dry oak woodland, and the slopes have an open forest of red oak, red cedar, chinkapin oak, hophornbeam, and flowering dogwood. Prairie plants grow both on the flat upland and in the extensive seepage area, particularly on sharp ridges extending from the upland. Prairie vegetation includes prairie dock, big bluestem and Indian paint brush. The upland woods is second-growth, and some red cedars have been cut from the slopes. The interest of the area is not in the woody plants, but in the herbaceous flora. Marsh marigold, spreading goldenrod, spikemoss, stiff gentian, grass-of-parnassus, and a rush (Juncus brachycephalus) grow in the seepage area. Broomrape and six species of orchids are found on Orchid Hill. These include yellow lady's slipper, twayblade orchid, long-bracted orchid, late coralroot, and two species of ladies tresses orchid. Table II-17 lists species observed at this area.

Significance: The area is important because of the prairie communities on north facing slopes, the highly calcareous seepages and their flora, and the presence of several rare orchids. Even though yellow lady's slipper is rare in Illinois, a large colony is present here. The long-bracted orchid grows in a habitat apparently unreported for the species, and Orchid Hill is the only place in Vermilion County where it has been found. The long-bracted orchid is supposedly a cold-site northern species, but at Orchid Hill, it is found in a relatively xeric habitat, making the southernmost locality in Illinois for the long-bracted orchid. Both species of ladies tresses orchids are uncommon in east-central Illinois.

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TABLE II - 17

FLORA LIST - ORCHID HILL

Scientific Binomial	Common Name
<u>Actaea pachypoda</u>	
<u>Actaea pachypoda</u>	Baneberry (white)
<u>Penstemon spp.</u>	Beards Tongue
<u>Andropogon scoparius</u>	Little Blue Stem
<u>Juniperus spp.</u>	Red Cedar
<u>Pyncnanthemum spp.</u>	
<u>Phlox pilosa</u>	
<u>Angelica spp.</u>	
<u>Lonicera prolifera</u>	
<u>Comandra spp.</u>	
<u>Krygia spp.</u>	
<u>Silphium terebinthinacium</u>	
<u>Baptisia leucantha</u>	Wild Indigo
<u>Castilleja spp.</u>	
<u>Cypripedium spp.</u>	Lady's Slipper Orchid
<u>Liparis lilifolia</u>	Twayblade Orchid
<u>Sisyrinchium albidum</u>	
<u>Taenidia integerrima</u>	
<u>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</u>	Ox Eye Daisy
<u>Rubus flagellarius</u>	
<u>Rhus glabra</u>	Smooth Sumac
<u>Achillea spp.</u>	Yarrow
<u>Fragaria spp.</u>	Strawberry
<u>Parthenocissus spp.</u>	Virginia Creeper
<u>Tradescantia spp.</u>	Spiderwort
<u>Rubus spp.</u>	Blackberry
<u>Aquilegia spp.</u>	Columbine
<u>Ribes missouriensis</u>	Gooseberry
<u>Smilacena spp.</u>	False Solomon's Seal
<u>Arisaema spp.</u>	
<u>Galium spp.</u>	Bedstraw
<u>Podophyllum spp.</u>	May Apple
<u>Heuchera spp.</u>	Alum root
<u>Rosa carolina</u>	Rose
<u>Potentilla spp.</u>	
<u>Panax</u>	
<u>Antennaria spp.</u>	Pussy Toes

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(Continued)

Scientific Binomial	Common Name
<u>Hypoxis spp.</u>	
<u>Allium spp.</u>	Onion (Wild)
<u>Viola spp.</u>	Blue Violet
<u>Thalictrum spp.</u>	
<u>Viola pedata</u>	Birds Foot Violet
<u>Pedicularis canadensis</u>	
<u>Sanguinaria spp.</u>	Bloodroot
<u>Hydrangea spp.</u>	Hydrangea
<u>Hepatica spp.</u>	Hepatica
<u>Uvularia spp.</u>	Bellwort
<u>Conopholis americana</u>	Squawroot
<u>Erigeron annuus</u>	Fleabane
<u>Geranium spp.</u>	Wild geranium
<u>Cornus florida</u>	Flowering bedstraw
<u>Geum spp.</u>	
<u>Botrychium virginianum</u>	Fern
<u>Equisetum spp.</u>	Horsetail
<u>Cladonia spp.</u>	Lichen
<u>Liatris aspera</u>	Blazing Star
<u>Aster ericoides</u>	Aster
<u>Gerardia tenuifolia</u>	
<u>Gerardia laevigata</u>	
<u>Lactuca spp.</u>	
<u>Gentiana quinquefolia</u>	
<u>Lespedeza virginica</u>	
<u>Coreopsis tripteris</u>	
<u>Aster laevis</u>	Aster
<u>Aster cordifolius</u>	Aster
<u>Solidago speciosa</u>	
<u>Solidago caesia</u>	
<u>Solidago patula</u>	
<u>Solidago erecta</u>	Spreading goldenrod
<u>Polygala sanguinea</u>	Red milkwort
<u>Eupatorium rugosum</u>	White snakeroot
<u>Celastrus scandens</u>	Bittersweet

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15. Uncharted Hill

- VCCD

(Size: 30 acres)

Location: East-center of Section 29, T20N, R12W.

Description: Uncharted Hill is a high narrow, half-mile long forested ridge forming the west bank of the Middle Fork River. As its name implies, it is not on the U.S.G.S. topographic quadrangle of the area. The hill is wedged-shaped and presents mesic habitat and a seepage on north facing slopes and dry forest habitat on west and east slopes and on the ridgetop. The steep north facing slopes contain a few beech trees in addition to the more dominant red oak. Hepatica and Christmas fern are in the understory. A small, depauperate seepage-prairie community occupies one seepage on the north facing bluff. This contains big bluestem, stiff gentian, penstemon, scouring rush, and tufa deposits. The less mesic west facing slopes have red oak and white oak; black oak and white oak characterized the ridgetop; and chinkapin oak, red oak, red cedar (in eroding sites) and yellow ladyslipper orchids are characteristic of the east slope above the river.

Significance:

At the site, American beech is present at its most northern known station along the Middle Fork. Although it does not compare to those of Orchid Hill, the seepage community adds diversity to the tract. Pinesap, a rare saprophytic plant, grows at the site, and many old growth trees are present on the narrow ridge at the south end of the hill. The ridge top at the north end of the hill is wide and appears to have been grazed. Except for local timber cutting, the south end of the ridge and the east and north facing slopes are in natural condition.

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16. Woods and Prairie - CILPCO (?)

(Size: 120 acres)

Location: North $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, T20N, R12W.

Description: The tract consists of a wooded ravine and surrounding upland prairie. Forest species include sugar maple, oaks, and hickories, and prairie species include little bluestem, big bluestem, purple prairie clover, bush clover, showy goldenrod, and mountain mint. Hickory, hawthorn, crabapple, and smooth sumac also are present.

Significance: The heads of ravines along the Middle Fork are extensions of the forest into the upland prairies. The forests of most of these ravines almost always have been destroyed by grazing or cultivation; however, this particular ravine is an example of a wooded ravine bounded by prairie remnants that has not suffered these disturbances. The ravine has an undisturbed forest, and the adjoining upland has a disturbed little bluestem prairie.

17. Woods and Seep Spring - Dept. of Conservation

(Size: 10 acres)

Location: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, T19N, R12W.

Description: This small tract contains a forested, small, flat upland adjacent to the Middle Fork River bluff. Sandstone and shale outcrop along the bluff and a wooded side ravine contains a large seep spring with a colony of marsh marigold.

Significance: The only apparent disturbance to the site is a power line crossing over the spring. All other features are in natural condition. The diversity of such a small tract and the presence of the river at the base of the bluff add to its significance.

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In all 17 natural areas have been identified in this report. As might be expected these areas do not possess the same degree of significance. Each have characteristics that make them important and each is unique in its own way.

Four areas demonstrate the qualities mentioned earlier in this chapter that make them eligible for inclusion as a state nature preserve. These areas are:

- 1) Windfall Prairie
- 2) Orchid Hill
- 3) Middle Fork Woods
- 4) Horseshoe Bottoms

The rest of the natural areas discussed are not deemed to be of high enough natural quality to qualify for dedication as nature preserves. Eight of the thirteen remaining natural areas, however, approach that quality since they present a diversity of natural plant species. These include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) Kickapoo Woods | 5) Seep Spring |
| 2) Middle Fork River Bluff | 6) Spring-fed Cattail marsh |
| 3) Old Growth White Oak Stand | 7) Skunk cabbage seep spring |
| 4) River Bluff Ravines | 8) Uncharted hill |

The five remaining natural areas exhibit somewhat lesser quality and in most cases, greater disturbance. These areas include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) Indian Grass Prairie | 3) Woods & Prairie |
| 2) Bottomland Prairie & Eroding Bluff | 4) Collison Creek Marsh |
| | 5) Woods & Seep Spring |

Appendix H lists the plant species known to occur within the project area. This list covers the major indicator species important in analyzing the various communities. Also included is a description of habitat where these species occur, as well as their relative abundance in Illinois and along the Middle Fork Valley.

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Rare or Endangered Species

The Middle Fork is the only known habitat in Illinois that will support a population of bluebreast darter (Etheostoma camurum). This isolated population is the western edge of the range of the darter, which is found sporadically in the Wabash River drainage in Indiana and Kentucky. It also occurs in Ohio, but not in the Wabash Drainage. Appendix B was compiled by the Illinois Natural History Survey and includes a history of recorded collection of the bluebreast darter in Illinois. Species of these fish were collected and released in both the 1962 and 1974 surveys conducted by the Division of Fisheries. This species has also been collected on numerous occasions by the Illinois Natural History Survey.

The Illinois Natural History Survey has also recorded the presence of two other rare or endangered fish species in the Middle Fork. The bigeye chub (Hybopsis amblopos) has been sampled in the Middle Fork. Although its presence has been documented at five sites in Illinois during the past 25 years, its current status is unknown. An Illinois Department of Conservation report, entitled Rare and Endangered Species in Illinois, lists the bigeye chub as probably being extinct in Illinois.

The river redhorse (Moxostoma carinatum) also has been recorded within the Middle Fork. Recent records indicate the presence of this species in only two river systems, the Fox (northern Illinois) and the Vermilion. According to the above mentioned Department of Conservation report, this fish is listed as rare in Illinois.

The spotfin shiner and steelcolor shiner still occur commonly in the Middle Fork. The red shiner has barely expanded its range into the watershed and has begun

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to appear only in the last few years. At this time there is no appreciable displacement of the spotfin and steelcolor shiners by the red shiner because the habitats have not been much disturbed. Elsewhere in the state, displacement has been considerable, but there are other areas where the red shiner has not affected these species. Since the spotfin shiner and steelcolor shiner still occur in the Middle Fork and other streams in the Wabash-Ohio drainage, they could be collected on practically any given day when water levels are suitable for seining.

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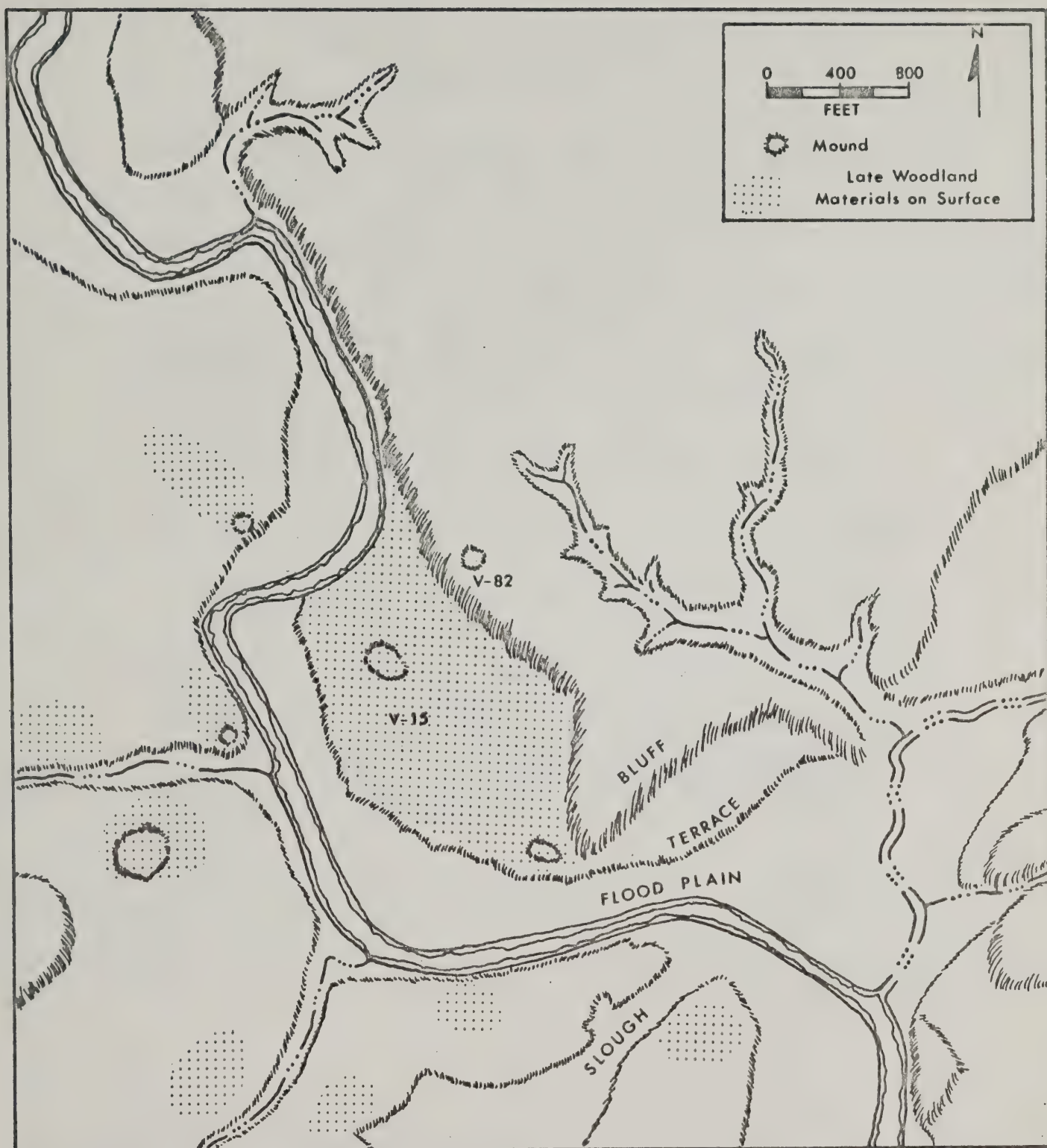


FIG. 1. V-15 COLLINS SITE, V-82 INDIAN SPRINGS MOUND, and surrounding areas. Generalized relief map. Adapted from maps and aerial photographs courtesy Chicago Aerial Survey and Division of Waterways.

DEDICATION OF A NATURE PRESERVE
LOCKPORT PRAIRIE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago, being the owner thereof does hereby dedicate the following described real property as a nature preserve:

All that part of the Northwest Quarter and the Northeast Quarter of Section 27, T36N, R10E, 3 PM, lying west of the Des Plaines River and east of the Chicago and Illinois Western Railroad excepting therefrom the following described tract: Beginning at the southwest corner of Section 27; thence north along the west line of said Section to the intersection with the east right-of-way line of the Chicago and Illinois Western Railroad; thence northeast along said ROW to a point lying 850 feet north of the south line of the NW 1/4 of Section 27; thence east 330 feet; thence N 43° E 240 feet; thence east 130 feet; thence S 31° E 300 feet; thence south 500 feet more or less to a point 270 feet north of the south line of the NW 1/4 of Section 27; thence east 560 feet, more or less to the west shore of the Des Plaines River; thence southwest along the west shore of the Des Plaines River to the south line of the NW 1/4 of Section 27; thence west along said south line to the point of beginning. Any part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 27 lying west of the Des Plaines River and any part of the NW 1/4 and NE 1/4 of Section 27 lying within 100 feet of the centerline of Division Street (FA Route 75) may be developed, managed or used for public highway purposes and access to the nature preserve with the approval of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

The property hereinabove described is dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in "An Act in relation to the acquisition, control, maintenance, improvement and protection of State parks and nature preserves", approved June 26, 1925, as heretofore amended and "An Act relating to the creation of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and defining its powers and duties", approved August 28, 1963, as heretofore amended. Said property is further dedicated for the purposes, and shall be held, maintained, and used, as provided for Nature Preserves in any amendment to said Acts enacted hereafter, but no such amendment shall alter the exclusive commitment of said land to the preservation of natural conditions for the purposes specified in said Acts as of the date of this dedication.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this

_____ day of _____, 19____.

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DEEP

34.5 kv. transmission line transferred
to Commonwealth Edison Co. Aug. 1957

Inclosed Bay

House Tail Base

Tail Res.

Actual Easement to
page 662-1916 pro.
Works and Buils -
by The Board of
District of
440-1923 pro.
Agreement with
and extra to
Power -
1231 of 1923

RIVER



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

OF WILL COUNTY

JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60431

PHONE 815 - ~~728-8700~~ 727-8700



November 12, 1976

RAY WOOCK, PRESIDENT
HERMAN ALBERICO, SECRETARY
FRANK PLANKAR, TREASURER
LAWRENCE VARSEK, ATTORNEY

Jerry Paulson
Nature Preserves Commission
819 N. Main St.
Rockford, Illinois 61103

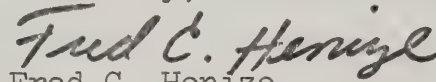
Dear Mr. Paulson:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution adopted November 10, by the Forest Preserve Board regarding the Lockport Prairie and other MSD land.

The Forest Preserve District is in hopes of acquiring this property shortly.

We will keep you informed of any developments.

Sincerely,



Fred C. Henize
Superintendent

FCH/jb
Enc.

RESOLUTION TO ACQUIRE LAND FROM THE
METROPOLITAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO

WHEREAS, the Board President, Attorney and staff of the Forest Preserve District of Will County, Illinois have discussed with the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago since December of 1974 regarding the potential for preservation and public use of property owned by MSD along the Des Plaines River in Du Page and Lockport Townships, and

WHEREAS, a portion of this property, commonly known as the Lockport Prairie contains unique flora, among which is the rare and endangered three-leafed prairie clover (Petalostemum SP) , and

WHEREAS, these lands are of prime concern to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, The Illinois Department of Conservation, The Open Lands Project, The Sierra Club, The Forest Preserve District of Will County, Illinois Audubon Society and other environmentally oriented groups and agencies, and

WHEREAS, these agencies are looking to the Forest Preserve District of Will County for support in this preservation project. and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District is charged with "protecting and preserving the flora, fauna and scenic beauties within such district," and

WHEREAS, a unique opportunity to fulfill this statutory function of preservation and public recreation, and the opportunity to cooperate with other public agencies and conservation oriented groups exists;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

SECTION 1: That the Forest Preserve District of Will County is interested in these areas for public use and preservation and also is interested in cooperating with the various agencies involved;

SECTION 2: That the Real Estate Committee, officers and Staff of the Forest Preserve District be directed to pursue the preservation of the below described property;

SECTION 3: The area commonly known as the Lockport Prairie, located in Lockport Township, Will County and bounded on the west by an industrial railway, by Route 7 on the north, the Des Plaines River on the east, and Caton Farm Road on the south; and

SECTION 4: The area in Du Page Township, Will County bounded on the east by the Des Plaines River, 135th Street on the south, and the Will-Cook County line to the Northeast.

Passed this 10 day of Nov., 1976

Ray L. Wood
President of the Forest Preserve
District of Will County, Illinois

ATTEST Herman Reeves
Secretary of the Forest
Preserve District of Will
County, Illinois

12-MILE PRAIRIE
Fayette and Marion Counties

SUMMARY

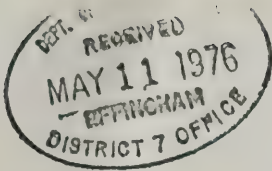
The prairie land between Illinois Central Gulf Railroad and Illinois Route 37 between ~~Laclede~~ ^{WATSON} and Kinmundy in Fayette and Marion Counties has been proposed for purchase as a scenic easement by the Illinois Department of Transportation. This area, known as the 12-Mile Prairie, has been of concern to the Commission since 1964. This scenic stretch of native prairie vegetation has been threatened by farming trespass, careless railroad work crews, and general neglect.

In October, 1975 the Commission passed a resolution expressing concern over trespass and damage to prairie vegetation along the right-of-way and supporting the efforts of the Illinois Department of Transportation to preserve and protect the prairie (Resolution 387).

Negotiations with the railroad over the years have not succeeded in protecting the prairie. The railroad is not interested in selling the easement to the State, but the Department is considering acquisition through eminent domain proceedings. The Illinois Department of Transportation would like a statement of support from the Commission for its acquisition of this easement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Urge that the Illinois Department of Transportation acquire the easement for the 12-Mile Prairie from the Illinois Gulf Central Railroad.



STATE OF ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

605 STATE OFFICE BUILDING

400 SOUTH SPRING ST.

SPRINGFIELD 62706

ANTHONY T. DEAN
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM A. WATTS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

CHICAGO OFFICE—ROOM 100, 160 N. LA SALLE ST., 60601

May 10, 1976

Mr. Wayne Tipsword
Landscape Architect
Illinois Department of Transportation
400 West Wabash
Effingham, IL 62401

Dear Mr. Tipsword:

I am writing in support of your agency's efforts to preserve portions of the "12 mile prairie" along Route 37 between Kinmundy and Watson, Illinois.

Excluding the small area immediately adjacent to Kinmundy as we agreed at our visit to the site April 28th, the prairie you propose for easement is a very valuable resource that I feel should be under public control. Portions of the prairie are virgin and apparently undisturbed, while other areas have had some soil spread over the original prairie sod. Even these areas of spoil deposition are valuable as prairie remnants because they are still dominated by native prairie species and have both scientific and esthetic value. The disturbance that has occurred will be healed in time if the area is brought under your control and protection.

I hope you are successful in your efforts to protect this scenic and natural area resource.

Sincerely,

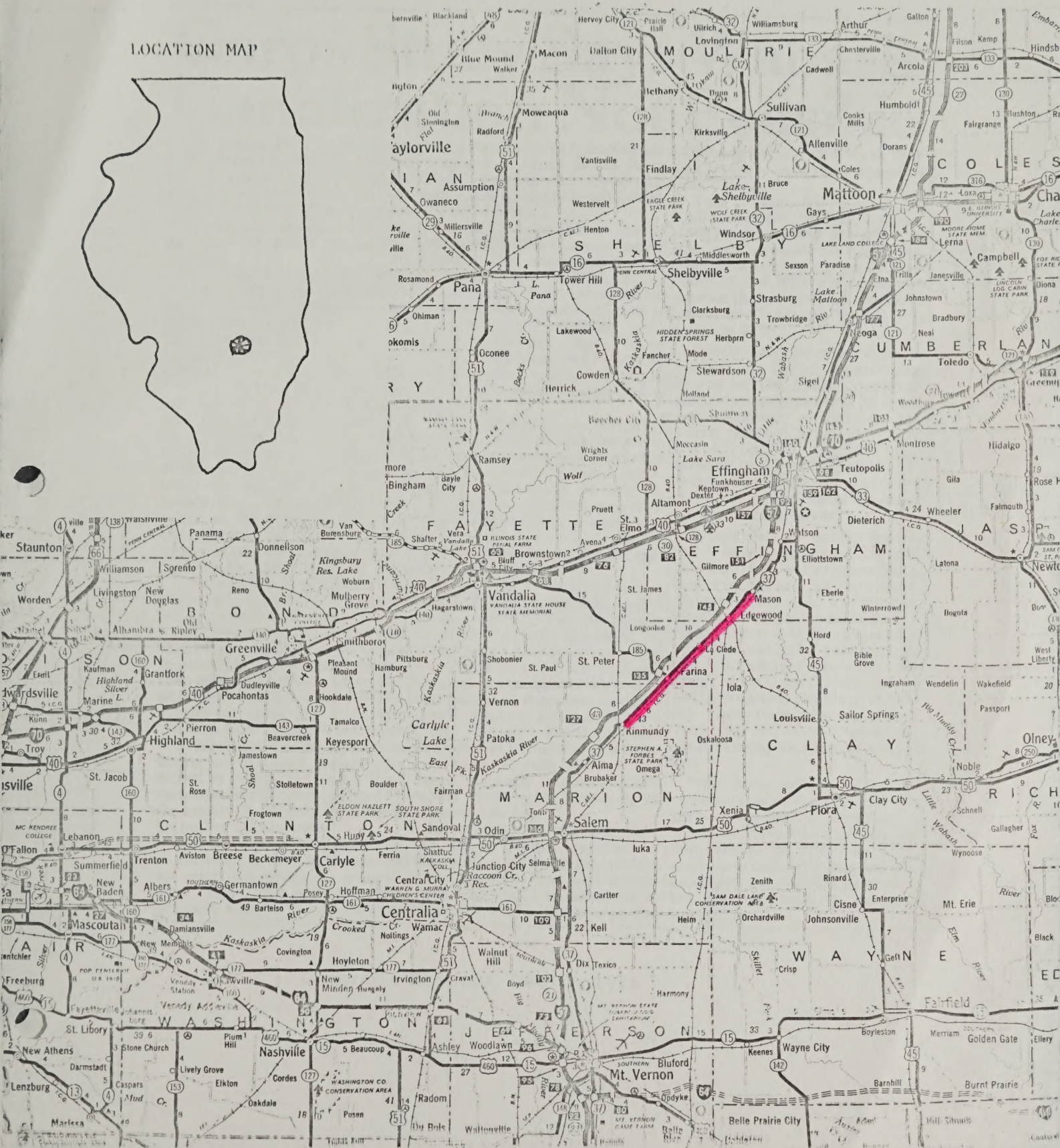
John E. Schwegman
Chief Natural Areas Specialist

JES:11h

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Proposed emsement of the 12-mile Prairie, Fayette and Marion Counties

LOCATION MAP



Corps Study Says Wabash Canalization Not Feasible

Col. James Ellis of the Corps of Engineers Louisville District has announced that the costs for the lower segment of the Wabash Canal would exceed the benefits, and he will recommend to Congress that the canal not be constructed.

Col. Ellis also said the Corps does not plan at this time to continue "detailed studies" of the route between Mt. Carmel and Terre Haute although these additional investigations were authorized by Congress in 1975.

The draft feasibility report on the mouth to Mt. Carmel segment will be released to the public on or about Dec. 17, according to the Corps press release. The draft report discusses the feasibility of navigation improvements along approximately 95 miles of the Wabash from the Ohio River to Mt. Carmel. Alternative navigation plans investigated by the Corps in this report would have reduced the distance to 42 miles, plus an additional spur up to Carmi.

Spokesmen for the Corps had originally said the report would be available some time during the past summer. However, according to the press release, comments from the Fish and Wildlife Service, state agencies and other local interest groups must be obtained before the report is completed and a final recommendation is submitted by the Louisville District for review by higher authorities.

Construction of the proposed canal had been strongly opposed by environmentalists, landowners and railroads on the grounds that it would destroy

many natural areas, impair the drainage on much of the farmland adjoining the waterway, and unfairly compete with existing rail lines.

The project would have cost an estimated \$340 million and would require the condemnation of over 10,000 acres of land, mainly on the Indiana side. Construction of the canal became an issue in the November election with canal proponent Sen. Vance Hartke losing his seat to former Indianapolis mayor Richard Lugar, an outspoken opponent of the project.

The decision of the Corps to release the feasibility report in the next few weeks is a marked departure from previous statements. As recently as Oct. 12, Col. Ellis said that the report on the Mt. Carmel section would not be released until the economic studies on the Terre Haute segment were completed.

Conservation groups had maintained that the Corps should make public the feasibility report on the first segment of the canal before undertaking studies on the Terre Haute section. Several organizations including the National Audubon Society, Izaak Walton League, Sierra Club, Illinois Environmental Council and Friends of the Wabash have already written the Corps formally requesting the report under the Freedom of Information Act.

In response to these requests, the Corps' legal counsel in Washington advised the groups that the report was still incomplete and would be released in May 1977. Two of the groups, the

Audubon Society and Izaak Walton League, have since appealed this decision.

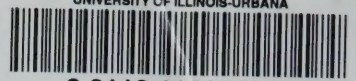
Tom Dustin, Director of the Indiana Izaak Walton League, said his group was preparing to file suit against the Corps on Nov. 26 when a telegram arrived from Lt. Col. Wilson of Louisville saying that the report would be made available on Dec. 17 at a price of \$7.10.

Dustin said he now plans to contact the Corps to determine if any of the \$150,000 appropriated by Congress will be spent for economic studies on the Terre Haute segment. "The Corps," added Dustin, "has already studied the thing to death and what we want is to get them out of the canal business on the Wabash River."

Proponents of navigation on the Wabash, however, are still hopeful that a water transportation system can be developed. Charles Hedde of Lawrenceville, president of the Wabash Valley Association, told the Vincennes Sun Commercial, "I think there are alternatives to what the Corps has investigated and I would hope that the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission's Technical Advisory Committee could develop an alternative system."

"We have placed a lot of emphasis on navigation, but if it isn't economically feasible, it would be absurd for an organization such as the interstate commission to support it. I'm not discouraged with the Corps report, but we will have to reassess navigation."

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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